# MLK activities to remember King's court

## Upcoming holiday includes events to memorialize gay top aide in civil rights battles

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

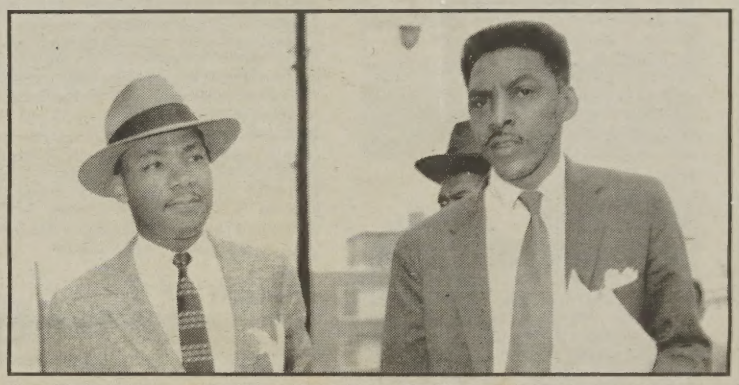
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Jan. 20 commemorates more than just one man, said Karen Lawton, an organizer at Hands On Atlanta, the non-profit group that organizes the MLK, Jr. Service Summit.

The three-day Service Summit, set for Jan. 18-20, annually draws some 7,000 people to community building workshops, volunteerism, seminars and cultural events that celebrate the civil rights legacy and assess the movement's present and future.

The weekend that culminates in a march and rally on MLK, Jr. Day also "pays homage to not only MLK, but also the numerous activists that stood with him to create change," Lawton said.

One such activist, a contemporary of King, was a black gay man named Bayard Rustin.

Rustin's life as a pacifist and civil rights leader is the subject of "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin," a documentary that Hands On Atlanta will screen next week as part of the Service Summit. The documentary airs on PBS stations Jan. 20.



**Bayard Rustin** (right), a gay civil rights activist, met **Martin Luther King, Jr.** at the 1956 bus boycott in Birmingham, Ala. Rustin is credited as the link between the gay and black civil rights movements. (Photo by AP)

"The film deals with who he was, what he came up against and people's hesitation to him being a leader of the movement because of his personal and political lifestyle," Lawton said.

Rustin helped shape the civil rights movement during the 1940s and 1950s with advocacy of Gandhian nonviolence that he eventually taught to King, but the movement frequently shunned Rustin because he was openly gay.

The man considered the link between the black and gay civil rights movements met King in 1956 at the Montgomery bus boycott and became part of King's entourage. After coming under fire during the 1960 Democratic National Convention from U.S. Rep. Adam Clayton for being an "immoral element" in the civil rights battle, King removed Rustin from his staff, and Rustin left the movement temporarily.

But in 1963, movement leadership entrusted Rustin to organize the historic march on Washington where King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. That year, Rustin was attacked by U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) on the Senate floor as a "homosexual, a draft-dodger, and a member of the Communist Party."

"Here was a prominent black gay man involved in one of the most important human rights movements of last century, one who was trusted and revered by Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Craig Washington, executive director of the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center.

Washington will facilitate a discussion about Rustin following the screening of "Brother Outsider" at the Service Summit.

"It's a matter of revealing the full role that Rustin played in the civil rights movement," Washington said. "His role was considerably downplayed, and part of that is because he was openly gay."

Washington also said Rustin's skin color played a part in his relative obscurity in historical records.

"Racism in the gay community also ... contributed to his erasure," he said.

In addition to the film screening, a pre-march Bayard Rustin Brunch is set for MLK Day. To date, Stonewall Democrats, the Center and Congregation Bet Haverim agreed to participate, Washington said.

"We want to show a sign of solidarity with the African-American gay community as well as acknowledge that MLK, Jr. Day is an opportunity for us to have a more unified and diverse community," said Rabbi Joshua Lesser of Bet Haverim.

Mary Anne Adams of ZAMI indicated that her group will also attend.

From the brunch, gay marchers will congregate at the intersection of Peachtree and Ellis Streets between 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m., to walk together in the annual MLK Day march through downtown, Washington said. The brunch and march are open to the public, he said.

YouthPride also plans to participate in the march.

### MORE INFO

**'Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin'**
Jan. 18, 4 p.m.
Freedom Hall
Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site
450 Auburn Ave. NE
404-331-5190
www.handsonatlanta.com

**Bayard Rustin Brunch**
Jan. 20, 10 a.m.
159 Ralph McGill Blvd.
404-523-7500
www.aglc.org

**MLK Day Rally and March**
Jan. 20, 1 p.m.
Peachtree St. and Ellis St. intersection
www.mlkmarchaaar.org
www.youthpride.org

CALENDAR, **Page 20** COMMUNITY NEWS, **Page 21** OCCASIONS, **Page 20**

## notes

The Atlanta Book Club joins Charis Circle to present 'SisterLove,' featuring **Dazon Diallo**, on Jan. 15 at 8:30 p.m. to discuss the effects of HIV/AIDS on communities of color. 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304 or www.chariscircle.org

### SATURDAY JAN. 11

**'BURB BANTER**: A potluck dinner for suburban gay men brings together members of Lambda Group, Northern Triangle, Gwinnett Guys and 7:10 Dinner in Gwinnett at 7 p.m. 770-457-5264 or LambdaGroup@msn.com

**LOBBY for HOBBY**: A citizen lobbyist workshop at the Feminist Women's Health Center teaches effective lobbying skills for would-be political activists from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for $10. The workshop emphasizes pro-choice issues. RSVP required. 1924 Cliff Valley Way. 404-248-5445 or janelley@atlfwhc.org

### SUNDAY JAN. 12

**BEAT SISTAS**: ZAMI's drumming circle, Drum Sista, reconvenes for its first meeting and practice in the new year from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at YouthPride. $5 requested donation. 302 Howard Ave. 404-370-0920 or www.zami.org

**UNSUNG VOCALS**: Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus holds auditions at the First Metropolitan Community Church at 6 p.m. for the remainder of the 2002-2003 season. Would-be crooners sing one song to a provided accompanist. 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-320-1030 or www.agmchorus.org

### FRIDAY JAN. 17

**TWINKLE TOES**: YouthPride hosts the Freedom Dance Party for gay youth replete with DJ, chaperones and free HIV testing from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. 404-378-6620 or www.youthpride.org

# community calendar

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## ATHENS

### SATURDAY JAN. 11

**GLBT TEEN GROUP.** 2 pm. Presbyterian student center. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net

## ATLANTA

### SATURDAY JAN. 11

**ARTISTS MARKET.** 10 am.-3 pm. Midtown Promenade, 931 Monroe Dr. 770-913-3978

**ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION OPEN PLAY.** 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

**CITIZEN LOBBYIST WORKSHOP.** 10 am. – 3:30 pm. $10 to learn about pro-choice lobbying, Feminist Women's Health Center Outreach Center. 1924 Cliff Valley Way. 404-248-5445 or janelley@atlfwhc.org

**DUNWOODY POTLUCK.** 7 pm. Meet and dine with great guys and sometimes women. RSVP to Bob & Dave for directions. 770-457-5264 or LambdaGroup@msn.com

**FRONT RUNNERS.** Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

**GEORGIA FIELD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S LEAGUE.** 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

**GLBT ROSWELL.** 5-7:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North. Chenry8015@aol.com

**HOTLANTA BASKETBALL.** Men at 11:30 am. Women at 2 pm. New association, all skill levels welcome. Atlbasketball@aol.com

**ZACCHAEUS SOCIETY.** 5 pm. Covered dish. Confidential outreach to straight and gay citizens of Rockdale and Newton counties. 404-522-1444 or zachinfo@mail.com

### SUNDAY JAN. 12

**ATLANTA FEMINIST WOMEN'S CHORUS.** 3:45 rehearsal. Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. 770-438-5823 or AFWChorus@yahoo.com

**ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT.** 11 am. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

**BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP.** 4 pm. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard Ave. Decatur, 404-370-0920

**DRUM SISTA.** 5-7 pm. www.zami.org

**GAY HOCKEY ATLANTA.** *2:10 pm. Lizard Kings vs. Cyclones.* The Polardrome, 4880 Lower Roswell Rd. Marietta. www.gayhockeyatlanta.com

**GEN-X BEARS.** International network of younger bears providing friendship and support to ages 18-35, but open to all. 404-635-9344, gagenx@genxbears.org. www.genxbears.org/atlanta

**PFLAG RIVERDALE/METRO SOUTH.** 3:00 pm. Metro South Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays at the Southern Regional Medical Center (Education Wing). Everyone welcome. 404-366-3675 or 404-370-7316. deejaymrrw@aol.com

**POTLUCK SOCIALS FOR N GA RESIDENTS.** Different location each month. 706-864-3229

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ATLANTA.** 6-8:30 pm. Discussion group for gay, same gender loving, bisexual, straight, transgendered men of African descent. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500

### MONDAY JAN. 13

**GRRL GROUP.** 6:30 – 8 p.m. Ages 13-17. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

**HOTLANTA SQUARES.** High energy square dancing, no dress code, no pressure, no dance partner and no experience necessary. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 404—432-1809 or hotlantasquares@mindspring.com

**KIKI IDENTIFYING LESBIAN GROUP.** 6:30 p.m. For women who play the range of sexuality, from butch to femme. The Center. 159 Ralph McGill. 404-523-7500

**LAVENDER LIGHT BOOK CLUB.** 7:30-9:30 pm. Borders Snellville, 1929 Scenic Highway. 404-874-8294

### TUESDAY JAN. 14

**ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE.** Survivors support group. 6:30 pm. 404-688-2524

**ATLANTA LESBIAN LIFESTYLES.** 7 pm. For women who enjoy the company of other women. My Sisters' Room. www.belladona.org

**ATLANTA OUTWORLDERS.** 7 p.m. Interest group for gay science fiction fans meets at Miss Q's on Amsterdam Ave. for "Buffy" at 8 p.m. 770-451-8947. www.outworlders.org

**ATLANTA PLAYLAB.** 6-8 pm. Free workshop for playwrights. Peachtree Library, 1315 Peachtree. 404-872-8940

**ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT.** 8:30 pm. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

**BI-SEXUAL WOMEN.** 6:30 p.m. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500

**FRONT RUNNERS RUN/WALK.** 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

**HOTLANTA SQUARES.** High energy square dancing, no dress code, no pressure, no dance partner and no experience necessary. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 404—432-1809 or hotlantasquares@mindspring.com

**HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION.** 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

### WEDNESDAY JAN. 15

**ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE.** Bereavement Group, 7 pm. 404-688-2524

**FRONT RUNNERS.** 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

**PERSONS WITH AIDS (PWA) SUPPORT GROUP.** 7:30-9 pm. 725 Lawrenceville Highway. 770-962-8396, ext. 28

**RAINBOW CENTER SUPPORT GROUP.** 8-9:30 pm. For Lesbians, bisexual women, and questioning women. 743 Virginia. www.therainbowcenter.org or 404-885-9776

**RAINBOW HOME TEAS.** Continental breakfast, 7:45 am.-8:30 am. Afternoon tea, 5:45 pm.-6:30 pm. RSVP by Tuesday, 3 pm. 404-486-9034, x104

**SISTER LOVE.** 6:30-8:30 pm. Atlanta Book Club joins Charis for discussion on HIV/AIDS phenomenon using the book "This Bridge Called My Back. 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304 or www.chariscircle.org

**TEEN GROUP.** Teen support group at YouthPride (ages 13-18), 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

**YOUNG ADULT GROUP.** Group for ages 18-24 at YouthPride, 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

### THURSDAY JAN. 16

**AIDGWINNETT & POSITIVE PEACHES.** 7:30 pm. PWA & family/friends/partners/volunteers support group. Newton General Hospital, 5126 Hospital Dr, Covington. Ground floor in Cafeteria Conference Room. 770-356-5645

**ATLANTA EXECUTIVE NETWORK.** 404-724-9008

**ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS.** Rehearsals 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Rd. Atlanta, GA 30329. 404-320-1030 or www.agmchorus.org

**ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT.** 8:30 p.m. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

**ATLANTA WOMEN'S RUGBY.** Practice 7-9 pm. Matches on Saturdays, no experience necessary. www.atlantaheatwrfc.com

**BOYTALK.** 6:30-8 pm. Discussion group for GBTQ youth 18-24. At YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620.

**COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA.** 7 pm. Partner dance lessons in salsa, swing, waltz, and more. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. $10. 404-876-3950

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS LUNCH.** Noon. Community leaders discuss events and information. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. First floor. 404-523-7500

**DUNGEONS & DRAGONS.** 3E D&D weekly group meeting in downtown Atlanta. Open to all levels of gay and gay-friendly RPG players. ajones@mindspring.com

**FEMINISM 101.** 7:30 pm. Charis Circle, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304 or www.chariscircle.org

**LATINO GROUP.** 6:30-8 pm. GBTQ, ages 18-24. YouthPride, 404-378-6620

**LESBIAN AVENGERS.** 7:30 pm. Weekly meeting of Atlanta chapter, open to all ages & gender identities. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave., Decatur. 404-978-1262 ext. 7744, or lesbianavengers@onebox.com

**LESBIAN READING GROUP.** 404-467-4278

**GUYTALK.** 7 pm. For gay & bisexual men 18-24. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500

**PEOPLE OF COLOR COMMUNITY NETWORK.** 7-9 pm. Indigo Arts Gallery & Playhouse, 1850 DeKalb Ave. 404-378-7703

**SAFE HARBOR.** 7:30 p.m. Christian fellowship and bible study for gay men and lesbians. 770-717-9971 or404-622-8561

**WOMYN'S GROUP.** Ages 18-24 at YouthPride. 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

### FRIDAY JAN. 17

**THE AGENDA** Midnight. Gay Television. People TV Cable Channel 24. www.herounit.com

**ALL WOMEN'S OPEN MIC NIGHT.** 8 pm. Trans inclusive. Charis Books, 1189 Euclid. 404-524-0304

**ATLANTA FREEDOM MARCHING BAND.** 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666

**ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT.** 7:30 pm. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

**FREEDOM DANCE PARTY.** 7-10 pm. Free HIV Testing. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620 or www.youthpride.org

**HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION.** Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

## UPCOMING/ONGOING

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN GAY MEN'S ARTIST PROGRAM.** Share a book, poem, artwork, play or song with other talented gay men. Weekly, 404-454-4582

**AIDGWINNETT.** Free no needles HIV testing. 9 am – 7 pm on the first and third Tuesday, 9 am – 5 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday and every Thursday. 725 Scenic Hwy., Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396, ext. 23. spencerk@aidgwinnett.org

**ALWAYS ENROLLING.** "Slipping & Sliding" safer sex workshop; "Boys Will be Boys" safer sex workshop for guys under 25. Gay outreach volunteers needed. Ben Hadsock at AID Atlanta. 404-870-7763 or ben.hadsock@aidatlanta.org

**ASIAN PACIFIC LESBIAN BISEXUAL TRANSGENDERED NETWORK.** Meets monthly.1-866-206-9069, ext. 2321 or aplbtn@onebox.com

**ATLANTA GAY PARENTS.** A group for gay and lesbian parents to discuss issues of parenting and discovery of gay and kid-supportive activities and spaces for unconventional families in Atlanta. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/atlantagayparents

## COLUMBUS

### MONDAY JAN. 13

**CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY PFLAG.** 7:30-9:30 pm 1442 Double Churches Road. 334-291-5153 7:30-9:30 pm or PFLAGpress@aol.com

## MACON

### SUNDAY JAN. 12

**PFLAG.** 2 pm. Open to the public. 912-328-0497

### FRIDAY JAN. 17

**CCAN Potluck Luncheons.** Noon. Bring a covered dish to share. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave.

## SAVANNAH

### SUNDAY JAN. 12

**FRIENDS & COMPANY.** 6 pm. AMF Victory Lanes. 912-354-0658

### MONDAY JAN. 13

**BOWLING LEAGUE.** 9 pm. For single lesbians and gay men. AmF Savannah Lanes, 115 Tibet Avenue. $10/week. Trey or Trish, 912-925-0320

### TUESDAY JAN. 14

**FCN BOARD MEETING.** 6 pm. First City Network office, third floor. 912-236-2489

@ **To add a listing,** e-mail **calendar@sovo.com,** call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Christopher Seely. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

## occasions

### BIRTHDAYS

"Special birthday wishes to our 9-year-old sweetheart Chelsea. We love you dearly, queerly and severely! Your loving Mamas."

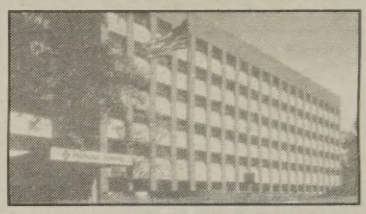
Happy birthday to Window Media art director Rob Boeger on Jan. 12.

Happy birthday to Black & White Men Together members Larry C. on Jan. 3, George S. on Jan. 7, and Charles H. and David R. on Jan. 14.

*Southern Voice publishes birthday wishes, anniversaries and other milestones in readers' lives free of charge. E-mail your special occasions to occasions@sovo.com. Call 404-876-1819, ext. 19. Fax: 404-876-2709. Write: Southern Voice/Occasions, 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA 30306. You must include a telephone number. Occasions may include photographs. Please include a SASE if you want your photograph returned, or send photographs by e-mail. Occasions are verified by telephone.*

# local news

## Piedmont Medical Center offers DP benefits



Employees of Piedmont Medical Center ring in 2003 with expanded healthcare benefits that include domestic partner coverage. (Photo courtesy of Piedmont Medical Center)

Piedmont Medical Center, a non-profit health facility, has responded to employee feedback from 2002 surveys that ranked domestic partner benefits high on employees' insurance needs, according to Joseph Herzberg, vice president of human resources for Piedmont Medical Center. "More than two-thirds of our employees participated in the survey, and we continue to implement changes such as these to demonstrate our support and recognition of their work," Herzberg said.

The center expanded its insurance package to include domestic partner benefits effective Jan. 1. "We're offering a whole new benefit product that we feel will better serve [employees] and enhance their service with the company," said Nina Montanaro, public relations spokesperson for the center. The expanded benefits include medical, dental and vision insurance and apply to both current employees and new hires. Domestic partners of same- and opposite-sex employees are eligible. No official gay group exists within the medical center, Montanaro said. After the human resources benefits office reviewed the employee surveys, the administration office received a recommendation to expand coverage, Montanaro said. "It was one of many comments with the overall survey ... and the administration heartily accepted it," she said.

The benefits office already has "approximately 25 people" signed up for the new benefits, said Jim McMurtray, benefits manager. The center has about 3,300 employees. To be considered for DP benefits, two unrelated people must be legal adults, mentally competent, share joint responsibility for each other's welfare and financial obligations, share residence, maintain the relationship for more than 12 months and intend to continue the relationship indefinitely with no other similar relationships, McMurtray said.

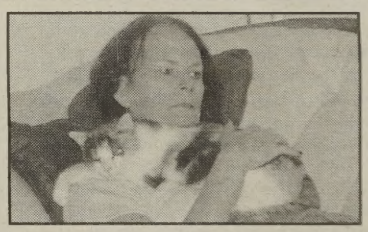
Piedmont Medical Center is the parent company of Piedmont Hospital, a 500-bed acute tertiary care facility in Buckhead, and other metro Atlanta facilities.

Christopher Seely

**MORE INFO**
**Piedmont Medical Center**
1968 Peachtree Rd., NW
404-605-5000
1-866-605-5111
www.piedmonthospital.org

# obituary

## Alice Johnston, 52



Alice Johnston, 52, an Army veteran of three wars, a librarian and a computer engineer, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound Dec. 15 along the banks of the Chattahoochee River in Fulton County, according to the Fulton County Medical Examiner's office.

She was buried Jan. 7 in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Atlanta. A memorial service at the gravesite is set for Jan. 18 at 5 p.m., according to James Brink, Johnston's friend and former roommate.

Johnston, a transgendered woman, is survived by a sister in Cocoa Beach, Fla., and a niece, Courtney Cain. Johnston was married and divorced three times in her early life before transitioning to a woman, said Melissa White, another friend and former roommate.

Johnston was born May 19, 1950, but her place of birth and where she resided before moving to Atlanta is unknown.

Johnston was a media officer in the U.S. Army, and a veteran of the Vietnam war, the Grenada invasion and the Gulf war, and filmed and documented landmine accidents and served as a base disc jockey, White said.

Friends called Johnston "outspoken" and "occasionally authoritative" from her time in the Army, leading her to be misunderstood and distanced by many transgendered people, White said.

"She was tough on the outside, but underneath was one of the most loving people I ever knew," White said.

A self-proclaimed bookworm, Johnston's home was filled with rooms of books, all of which she read, according to White.

"The one that most inspired her was about the life of Christine Jorgensen," White said. "Alice said after reading it, she was able to see what was missing in her life."

A librarian for most of her life, Johnston most recently worked at East Georgia College in Swainsborough, Ga.

Also a computer engineer after leaving the Army, Johnston installed computer networks for several colleges and universities in South Georgia, but was laid off shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and was unable to find work, according to friends.

"As of 14 December, I'm one of the homeless," Johnston said in an automatic outgoing reply on her e-mail account. "Shelters don't take transsexuals, and I'm not changing back. Looks like I'm a goner. Thanks for the support over the past few years. Hugs, Alice."

Jennifer J. Smith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editorial

# Bush has mandate to let gays serve

Bush has the respect and support to do what Clinton promised but failed to deliver: letting gays serve openly in the military. With an **Iraqi War imminent**, now is the time to take action.

By KEVIN C. NAFF

PRESIDENT BUSH'S STUNning mandate in the November Congressional elections, coupled with the nation's urgent need for talented, dedicated Americans to fight the war on terrorism present the Republican White House with a unique opportunity: to succeed where Bill Clinton failed and finally end the ban on gays serving openly in the military.

Clinton shamelessly courted gay votes and dollars, only to renege on his campaign promise to end the ban as his first presidential act. Clinton lacked a mandate, as well as the respect of the armed forces, and he knew that gay voters would follow him like lemmings no matter what he did, and so, the ban remains.

President Bush, on the other hand, won both the respect of the military and the country for his post-9/11 performance and has a clear mandate following the November midterm elections. It's time for him to use his political gains to deliver on his campaign promise of "compassionate conservatism."

What could be more compassionate than ending a discriminatory policy? Besides, enforcing legal bans on an entire class of people flies in the face of the true conservative ideal of less and limited government.

The unfortunate alliance between Republicans who consider themselves "conservative" and religious extremists like Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell has corrupted the historical definition of the term. The GOP will never gain widespread acceptance and support from minority voters so long as the party remains beholden to religious fundamentalists.

In reality, Bush's campaign slogan "compassionate conservatism" is redundant. A true conservative does not take issue with private sexual behavior or orientation and certainly does not advocate for government interference in private matters. Bush cannot stay true to conservatism or to his campaign promises while maintaining the ban on gays in the military.

PRACTICAL POLITICS ALSO ARGUE for the president and Congress to kill "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Imagine the political ramifications if a Republican administration delivered gay Americans such a huge victory.

Scores of gay voters would have to reconsider their allegiances overnight. And the political risk to Bush is negligible. The most extreme right-wingers who would vote against him for ending the ban would never vote for a Democrat anyway.

Bush still enjoys sky-high approval ratings (a 63 percent positive rating according to a Jan. 7 Zogby poll) and his party now controls both houses of Congress. Bush has even shown a willingness to stand up to conservative members of his own party, as demonstrated by his rebuke of Sen. Trent Lott's recent racist comments glorifying segregation. He may be the best chance we have of ending the ban.

Last week brought news that Charles Moskos, the original author of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," said he now favors allowing gays to serve openly if Congress reinstates the draft. Moskos' reasoning has less to do with equality and more to do with practical fears of the draft system falling apart as thousands of heterosexuals claim to be gay to avoid service. But that's still a remarkable turnabout for a man who many blame for contributing to the travesty of ousting gays from service.

History would also be on Bush's side if he opted to end the ban. Although opponents of lifting the ban claim that the military ought not be used for social experimentation, the reality is that the military has frequently found itself in a leadership role in the fight for equal rights.

The historic Civil Rights Act, which granted equal voting rights for minorities and banned segregation, didn't pass Congress until 1964. But the military was at least 20 years ahead of Congress. In 1941, the War Department formed an all-black squadron of the U.S. Army Air Corps and in 1948 the armed forces were desegregated.

Despite ongoing struggles for full equality, the military was often ahead of the times on matters of women's rights, too. While women didn't get the right to vote until 1920, an estimated 6,000 women worked as nurses in the Union army by 1865. The Navy enlisted women in 1917 and more than 11,000 women served in the Navy in World War I. There were roughly 280,000 women enlisted in the armed forces by the end of World War II.

Sixty years later, America again finds itself in a global conflict. And again, President Bush would be well advised to read his military history. The military has a long tradition of suspending restrictions on gays serving their country in wartime.

Ousted gay servicemen and women were re-inducted into the armed forces during World War II. Gay discharges also plummeted during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. In 1966, the Navy discharged 1,708 sailors for being gay; by 1970, near the height of the Vietnam War, that number dropped to 461 sailors.

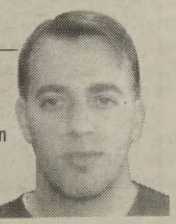
Strong precedents exist for relaxing the ban when the nation is at war and the current war on terrorism (and impending war in Iraq) should be no exception. The recent discharge of nine Arabic linguists under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" points to a dangerous and disturbing aberration in that tradition.

By allowing such injustices to pass unchallenged, Bush mocks the importance of the war, telling the world that national security and fighting the al-Qaeda network take a back seat to enforcing an archaic and discriminatory policy.

Our allies in the terror war have already ended their own bans on gay service. American soldiers are serving alongside allies from Great Britain, Israel, Australia, Canada and 19 other nations whose military leaders understand that homosexuality is not an impediment to unit cohesion.

Bush should follow suit and use his immense political capital to end the ban on gays in the military. There are historical precedents for such a move. There are political dividends to be earned. And it's the compassionate thing for a conservative to do.

**Kevin C. Naff** is news editor of the Washington Blade, sister publication to this newspaper, and can be reached at knaff@washblade.com.



# letters

## It doesn't matter if a child is gay or not

To the Editor:

Your Dec. 13 issue had two viewpoint columns on the question of what sexual orientation gay parents want for their children. Your columnists, Beren DeMotier and Dale Stafford, both missed the point that what the parent wants is irrelevant to how the child turns out. Worse, both writers made comments that were, presumably unintentionally, offensive.

It doesn't matter what sexual orientation parents hope for. Surely we have learned the lesson of our own lives, namely, that somewhere along the line, hormones kick in and the universe tells us what "flavor" we are.

Our choice then is to accept it and make a life for ourselves, or to run from it. Our parents can hope all they like, but what they really should be doing is learning about all the diverse ways their children can turn out, and learning how to be supportive of their children in those ways.

It amused but also angered me that DeMotier inserted her all-too-frequent anti-male prejudices. She suggested that while she doesn't really care what sexual orientation her child has, she has "fears for that person, gay or straight." Why? Because whichever sex her child is, the child could be the subject of abusive male behavior.

What she wants, apparently, are a lesbian daughter and a straight son. She doesn't care what sexual oientation her children have, so long as they partner with women.

Stafford is just as bad. He starts out by saying he can offer all the love and emotional strength any child would need, but he then contradicts himself by saying he would prefer a heterosexual child, so the child would never have to know the pain of living in a world full of people's prejudices.

Apparently, Stafford really can't offer everything a minority child might need. If this is in fact the case, when Stafford feels he is ready to adopt, he should be careful to adopt only straight, white, male children with no disabiities. I wish him luck.

**BOB SCHWARTZ**
**Atlanta**

## Thanks for trans coverage

To the Editor:

I am a former resident of Atlanta, now living in Toronto. I read Southern Voice online weekly and enjoy keeping up. I am a transman and enjoyed friendships in the TG community in Atlanta.

SoVo seems to me to has always been sensitive to TG concerns, using proper pronouns for whatever individuals you were reporting on. The recent Action! Alert ("Is he, or isn't she?" Dec. 20) was no exception.

This letter is just to say thank you for reporting fairly and sensitively on the transgendered community.

**COLIN DAVIDSON**
**Toronto**

## 'Buffy' slight explained

To the Editor:

This past month, the 14th annual GLAAD Media Awards nominations were announced in 24 different categories, recognizing outstanding depictions of gay characters in the media.

Writers in the gay press, as well as friends of mine, seemed to be most concerned about the omission of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" from the list of TV nominees. ("A matter of choice?" TV column, Dec. 20). I am a member of the GLAAD Media Awards nominating and voting committee and can help explain the process.

Individual committees determine each category's nominees, much like the Academy Awards. Those who spend time with electronic media examine what's on the Web, those who attending the theater choose among the stage productions, and people like me, with more than 14,000 comic books and a syndicated comic strip under my belt, vote in the Outstanding Comic Book division.

Toward the end of the year, each member awards point values to each candidate in four categories. First, were the gay characters or theme a prominent focus of the project? Second, was the portrayal a fair, accurate and inclusive representation?

Next is the appraisal whether the project was bold and original in its impact, bringing new awareness to issues not traditionally exposed. And finally, what is the overall quality of the finished project? A well-meaning project that accomplishes the first three goals but isn't worth the time to read or watch suffers a lot on this point.

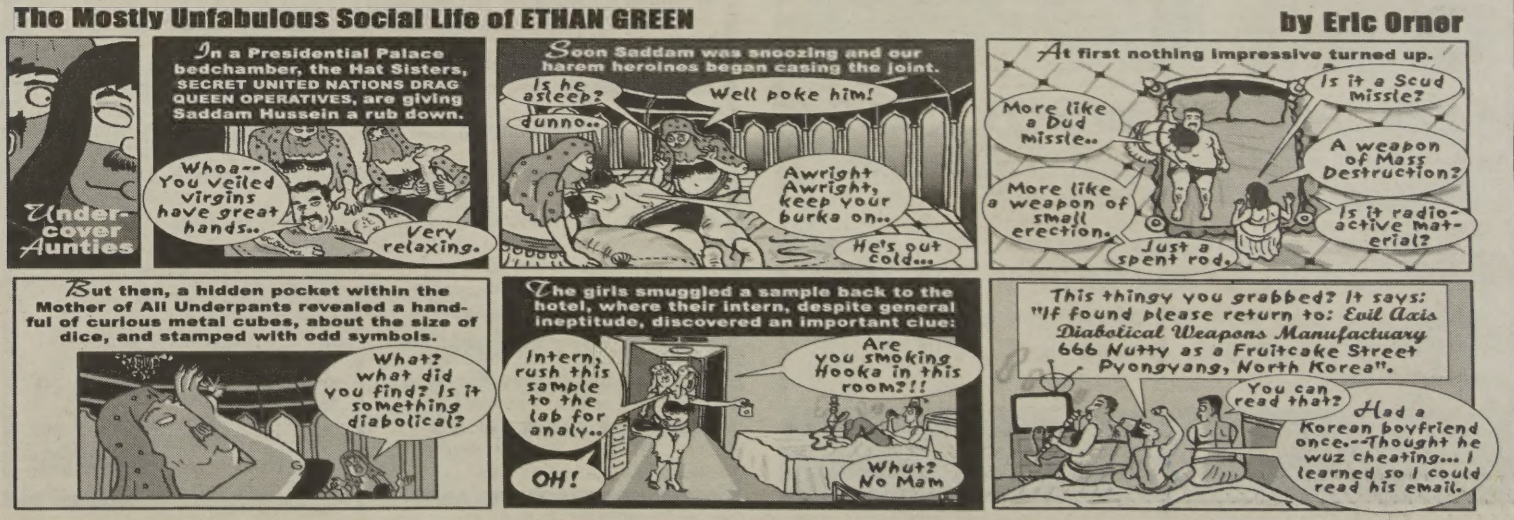
The top five vote-getters in each category make the final ballot. Those are the nominees released to the press (and to us voters). Each member of the nominating committee gets a ballot with the (up to) five nominees to be sent off to an independent accounting firm to be tabulated.

Then why wasn't "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" nominated?

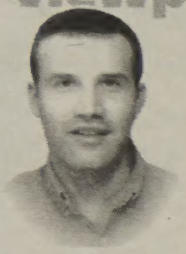
Since I'm not a member of the "TV branch" of the awards, I wasn't privy to the ongoing discussions during the year. Possibly the fact that Tara, the lesbian character, was killed off angered voters. There were certainly enough angry postings on general gay Web message boards about her murder.

As to the complaint that "less deserving" shows making the cut just to round out a category, you will notice some categories have far less than five. In 2001, only one movie was nominated in Outstanding Motion Picture-Wide Release ("The Mexican"), and that was only by way of a gay supporting character.

**CHRIS COMPANIK**
**Atlanta**


The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of ETHAN GREEN
by Eric Orner
Undercover Aunties
In a Presidential Palace bedchamber, the Hat Sisters, SECRET UNITED NATIONS DRAG QUEEN OPERATIVES, are giving Saddam Hussein a rub down.
Whoa-- You veiled virgins have great hands..
Very relaxing.
Soon Saddam was snoozing and our harem heroines began casing the joint.
Is he asleep?
Well poke him!
dunno..
Awright Awright, keep your burka on..
He's out cold...
At first nothing impressive turned up.
Is it a Scud missle?
More like a bud missle..
A weapon of Mass Destruction?
More like a weapon of small erection.
Is it radio-active material?
Just a spent rod.
But then, a hidden pocket within the Mother of All Underpants revealed a handful of curious metal cubes, about the size of dice, and stamped with odd symbols.
What? what did you find? Is it something diabolical?
The girls smuggled a sample back to the hotel, where their intern, despite general ineptitude, discovered an important clue:
Intern, rush this sample to the lab for analy..
Are you smoking Hooka in this room?!!
OH!
Whut? No Mam
This thingy you grabbed? It says: "If found please return to: Evil Axis Diabolical Weapons Manufactuary 666 Nutty as a Fruitcake Street Pyongyang, North Korea".
You can read that?
Had a Korean boyfriend once.--thought he wuz cheating... I learned so I could read his email.

viewpoint DAVID BIANCO



The idea that each person has a deep-seated, sexual orientation **oversimplifies experience**, ignoring many who have no innate sexuality.

# Homosexuality is a choice

WHAT EXACTLY IS HOMOSEXUALITY? For decades, gay activists have had a ready answer: Homosexuality is a "sexual orientation," one of the fundamental variables of human diversity (like race or blood type). Because the older, more traditional understandings were sin, sickness, and crime, sexual orientation was widely embraced as a nonjudgmental alternative.

We've fiercely defended "sexual orientation," even when it hasn't quite matched what we know about homosexuality. But in the 21st century, we should be self-confident enough to loosen our clutches on orientation-oriented thinking, without fear of automatically being re-branded as sinfully sick criminals. It's time to open ourselves to other theories of homosexuality.

The idea that each person has a deep-seated, relatively permanent sexual orientation oversimplifies human experience, ignoring the testimony of many people whose words and deeds point to no such innate orientation. That narrow thinking marginalizes those of us who believe our sexualities have evolved over time, ignoring our life stories and even basic logic.

Some orientationists actually claim a person can be straight in her 20s and lesbian in her 40s — but not the other way around!

The sexual-orientation approach also has little tolerance for people who consciously sublimate lots of sexual impulses because we sincerely interpret and value things like family, morality, and religion in ways that require us to do so. Such people are dismissed as repressed, self-hating "closet cases," when many of us know exactly what we're doing, and our decisions deserve respect.

INSISTING THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS one of two or three universal inborn sexual orientations is also ethnocentric. Chicana essayist Cherrie Moraga has argued that our sexualities are shaped by our cultural backgrounds and the various meanings each subculture assigns to gender relations and sexual behavior.

African Americans increasingly use descriptors like "same-gender-loving" and "down low" not because the terms are Ebonics for gay but because the gay white male point of view on homosexuality erases experiences and perspectives common among people of color.

So if homosexuality isn't a sexual orientation, what is it? I see three reasonable possibilities, none sufficient in itself, which overlap and combine in everyday experience:

*Homosexuality is a community we join.*

It's a set of organizations, neighborhoods, media, friendships, relationships and families that we declare ourselves a part of and interact with. Like many communities, it has its own lingo, norms, and taboos that new arrivals pick up very quickly.

*Homosexuality is a lifestyle we adopt.*

Once a despised term among gay men and lesbians, "lifestyle" is making a comeback, perhaps because we sense that certain practices are indeed particular to friends of Dorothy — from dating rituals to the nature of our relationships to what we find funny, sad, exciting, or offensive.

Lifestyle aspects can even apply to those of us who, by intention or circumstance, aren't "practicing homosexuals." For religious reasons, I no longer have sex with men and don't plan to, but I still enjoy gay show-tune karaoke, watch "Will & Grace," and agree with Rosie O'Donnell that Scott Wolf is a "cutie patootie."

*Homosexuality is an identity we construct.*

It's one way of putting together the complex desires, impulses, and fantasies that make some of us feel very different from the rest of society. The best part about coming out of the closet is often being reassured that we're not freaks after all. After years of wondering "What the hell is wrong with me?" it can be liberating to finally conclude, "Oh! That's what I am."

JOINING, ADOPTING AND CONSTRUCTing? It sure sounds like I'm arguing that homosexuality is a choice. Actually, I am. But not in the "I woke up this morning, leafed through the sexuality catalog, and thought I'd pick lesbian" way gay advocates often caricature the idea.

Instead, choice should empower us by affirming that we are captains of our own lives. Even if we don't remember choosing gay or straight, we all made dozens of community, lifestyle and identity decisions that played a role in our own multifaceted, complex, unique-as-a-fingerprint individual sexuality.

People who correctly want society to acknowledge that same-sex impulses and feelings are normal and natural should just say that, instead of dressing up those desires as a profound, built-in character trait that can only be "discovered and come to terms with" or "rejected and repressed."

The idea, was once a great way of defusing prejudice and dampening discrimination. But it has required us to project — and see — ourselves as victims of our own inner make-ups.

**David Bianco** is a gay historian and author, and can be reached at DaveBianco@aol.com.

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southern voice

counterpoint PAUL VARNELL

The idea that homosexuality is a choice is a product of **'queer theory'** in which nothing about sex and gender is natural or stable.

# Homosexuality is an orientation

COLUMNIST DAVID BIANCO CLAIMS that gays are wrong to argue that homosexuality is a "deep-seated, relatively permanent sexual orientation." **(Please see column, opposite page.)**

Such an approach, Bianco says, "oversimplifies human experience," ignoring many people who say they feel no such innate orientation, and "marginalizes those of us who believe our sexualities have evolved over time."

A better way to think of homosexuality, Bianco says, is, not precisely a single once-and-for-all choice but the result of a series of choices we made in our lives.

Now I certainly support creative thinking about sexuality and its development, and no doubt the term "sexual orientation" is shorthand for a complex psychological reality, but Bianco's analysis is deeply misleading.

It is important to realize that Bianco describes himself as "bisexual." And what Bianco says about his sexuality may well be true for bisexuals. Since they are attracted to both sexes, bisexuals may experience their growing sexual self-awareness as an unfolding set of equally appealing alternatives.

For bisexuals, any specific sexual attraction to this man or that woman may feel "optional" — a feeling that it is a choice among a variety of competing goods, and therefore more plausibly influenced by a person's community, mode of living or self-labeling.

BUT BIANCO'S MODEL, BASED ON HIS self-understanding, ignores the experience of most of us who are wholly or primarily gay and who feel that a fundamental, "deep-seated, relatively permanent" same-sex attraction accurately describes our own sexual self-understanding.

Most gay men and many lesbians became aware of their emotional and sexual desires, or something very much like them, at a fairly early age. And most of us experienced them in considerable divergence from outside influences or our own families' usually heterosexual "lifestyle," without any identity to lure us and sometimes despite a "heterosexual" identity.

We did not construct homosexual desires out of the choices we made; rather, the emotional and sexual desires we felt were what prompted our decisions, often reluctantly made — to seek out information, to look for people like ourselves, to try to experience the physical and emotional closeness we longed for.

Those of us who are older did this long before we knew that there was anything like a "gay community," and quite apart from having any notion about various gay "lifestyles." And we often resisted the identity (or self-label) of "gay" until long after it should have been obvious to us.

Bianco's implication that pre-existing knowledge that there is a gay community can somehow help generate previously unfelt homosexual desire seems implausible. Certainly Bianco gives no hint how that could happen.

THERE HAVE BEEN AND ARE MANY men whose primary, even exclusive, erotic desire has been for men, without being in contact with any gay community or distinguishably gay "lifestyles," even without their thinking of themselves as "gay" or "homosexual."

Homosexual desire may (or may not) induce a community; a community does not induce homosexual desire. Homosexual desire may be lived in a variety of possible "lifestyles"; but the "lifestyles" do not create the sexual desire.

Homosexual desires may (but need not) contribute to an identity; but an identity cannot produce erotic desire. There would be no occasion for a gay "identity" to have developed if there were no antecedent desires.

Bianco's view is the illegitimate offspring of a short-lived 1960s sociological fad called "labeling theory" (you become whatever people call you), and the latest deconstructionist "queer theory" in which nothing about sex and gender (or anything else) is natural or stable but can be dissolved or "deconstructed" to the point where it seems not to exist anymore.

Oddly, Bianco's view is similar to that of religious right groups, who also claim that homosexuality results from a series of decisions.

According to the religious right, these generate the small moral compromises that weaken the will, generate unnatural desire, leading to homosexual lust, the adoption of "a gay identity" and eventually the moral degradation of "the gay lifestyle."

Bianco and the religious right may evaluate sexuality differently, but the language is similar and the arguments are structurally identical.

Both are false.

@ Paul Varnell is a Chicago-based syndicated writer and can be reached at pvarnell@aol.com.

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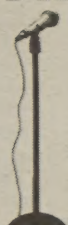

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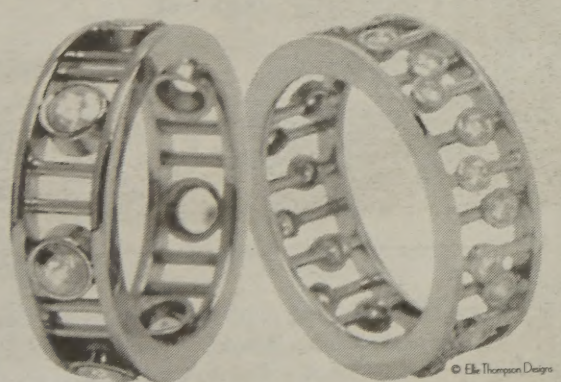

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# on the record

"It's a good thing I'm not his daughter then; maybe it's too bad I'm not."

*Tennis star **Martina Navratilova**, who is gay, reacting to news that Damir Dokic, the father of tennis phenom Jelena Dokic, said he would kill himself if he discovered his daughter is a lesbian (FoxSports.com, Dec. 30)*

"My version of falling in love is borderline psychotic. Should be avoided at all costs. Get obsessed. Can't fall in love and function at the same time. All-consuming. Tunnel vision. Euphoric."

*Irish comedian and U.K. talk show host Graham Norton (Irish Examiner, Dec. 22)*

"If these are all of gay men, there must have been an epidemic of homosexuality. Of course they weren't all of gay men."

*John Ibson, professor at California State University, Fullerton, on "Picturing Men," a book of "non-gay" photographs about the "lost world" of male intimacy (Orange County Register, Dec. 29)*

"The Trent Lott experience of the last several weeks is a reminder that the Republican Party can take two paths as it heads to the next presidential cycle: It can campaign on issues that unite America or on issues that divide it."

*Patrick Guerriero, newly installed executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay GOP group (Boston Globe, Dec. 26)*

"Do you remember Popeye in the comics? He used to say, 'I am what I am.' That's the way I feel about it. I have never once tested the atmosphere with a wet finger to see how I should vote."

*Anti-gay Sen. **Jesse Helms** (R-N.C.), who retired on Jan. 6, after three decades in Congress (Associated Press, Dec. 24)*

"The more 'normal' aspect of gay life does not get covered. Most Americans have a rather distorted view of who their homosexual fellow citizens are."

*"Nightline" host Ted Koppel, on being honored with an award at the Feb. 22 black-tie dinner in Los Angeles benefiting the Human Rights Campaign, a Washington-based gay political group (CNN, Jan. 7)*

"Batman and Robin? Not this again. Yes, they routinely shun the advances of Catwoman and Batgirl. And yes, we're talking about a muscular grown man and a limber teenage boy who aren't related to each other and who enjoy spending all their time together. Is that so wrong?"

***Superman**, in a memo to Lois Lane, reacting to the controversy surrounding the coming out of Rawhide Kid, a Marvel comics character, as imagined by writer Chip Kidd (New York Times, Dec. 28)*

"On my hall of 14, I knew nine men that were gay. In my class of 27, seven of them were gay — and those were just people I knew in my company who I had close contact with."

*Rob Hicks, a 28-year-old Korean language student at the U.S. Army's Defense Language Institute, who was discharged for being gay, along with six other DLI students (Santa Fe New Mexican, Dec. 30)*

action! alert

# 'Part of her world'

## Not-so-subtle gay kiss brings beauty of disenfranchised to forefront in Aguilera's new video

By MIKE FLEMING

Pop music star **Christina Aguilera** grabbed the attention of gay fans and media watchdogs with the video for her single 'Beautiful,' which includes a gay male couple kissing. (Photo courtesy ChristinaAguilera.com)

POP PRINCESS CHRISTINA AGUILERA has been setting gay sensibilities aflutter since her over-the-top appearance matched her soaring voice in the "Lady Marmalade" video.

She sent gossip into overdrive about her sexually explicit video for "Dirrty" and fed rumors of a make-out session with a female stripper.

Aguilera has the attention of gays again with the release of the video for her song "Beautiful," but this time her use of sexuality is specifically gay.

The song is an affirming ballad for not only Aguilera herself — a stab at those who would "bring me down" with hateful words — but for other misunderstood factions of society, including an anorexic girl, a punk rocker, a weakling kid, a gay male couple and a male-to-female cross-dresser.

*You are beautiful, no matter what they say*
*Words won't bring you down*
*You are beautiful in every single way*
*Yes, words won't bring you down*

As Aguilera croons in the video, close-ups on the gay couple kissing on a public bench, albeit tenderly, are graphic by mainstream standards. The two make out seemingly unaware as passersby glare.

The cross-dressing portion of the video brings the viewer into a dressing room as a man gradually puts on make-up, a dress and a wig.

Aguilera finally aligns herself with the outcast subjects of the video in the third refrain by changing the "I" of the first verse and the "You" of the second to "We."

"We are beautiful no matter what they say," she asserts.

AGUILERA MADE THE DECISION HERself about who to include in the video, according to Pamela Murphy, publicity representative for RCA Records.

"Gay people are a big part of her world," Murphy said. "She has a lot of gay friends and advisors, and she just wanted to be realistic in her depictions of who's out there."

The two kissing men in the video are off-screen partners as well, she said.

"Once Christina made the decision, several real-life gay couples auditioned, and they were cast," Murphy said. "It's a very real, relevant part of life that she wanted to show."

Murphy was unaware of any feedback from viewers or activists on the gay-inclusive video. MTV, which has the video in heavy rotation in all time slots, did not respond to interview requests by press time.

THE GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE Against Defamation, a national gay media watchdog group, is thrilled with "Beautiful," said Scott Seomin, entertainment media director for the group.

"We are obviously pleased with the inclusion," Seomin said. "It's wonderful to see ... that a passionate kiss between two men can exist in a music video on MTV without controversy — and it's not delegated to later timeslots or reserved for 'mature viewers.'"

Aguilera's fame and popularity with young people give her a unique opportunity to change attitudes and reach a large audience with her message, Seomin said.

"Aguilera's fans include easily influenced adolescents who often shape their identities around celebrities they admire," he said. "Aguilera's matter-of-fact inclusion of a gay couple is a positive message to her fans."

But as the video climbs the charts of popular requests on MTV, religious conservatives will likely weigh in on "Beautiful," as they have against Aguilera and fellow Mickey Mouse Club alum Britney Spears in the past.

"Bottle up Christina's genie," said anti-gay Rev. Pat Robertson when Aguilera's "Genie in a Bottle" hit the airwaves with the then-teenage singer's apparent sex-before-marriage message.

Focus on the Family, the Christian Coalition, Concerned Women for America and the Traditional Values Coalition have criticized the singer in the past. Those groups did not respond to interview requests about "Beautiful."

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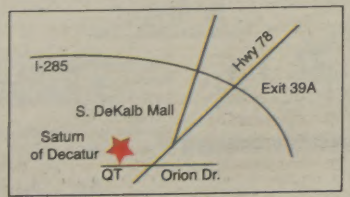




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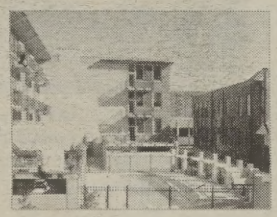

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**'MORNING AFTER'**: Dance diva Deborah Cox shows she's so much more with new CD. **Page 34**

**LITERARY OUTLAW**: The life of hustler-turned-author **John Rechy** makes for an intriguing read. **Page 33**

# Virginia Woolf remade

The literary bug didn't bite when he was young, but author **Michael Cunningham** says reading Virginia Woolf's 'Mrs. Dalloway' as a teen set his life on a different path. (Photo by Brad Fowler)

Virginia Woolf, played by **Nicole Kidman** in 'The Hours,' would be happy to know that her work is 'still alive to the world,' says author Michael Cunningham, whose novel was the basis for the movie. (Photo courtesy Paramount Pictures)

## Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Cunningham talks about 'The Hours' going from print to the big screen

By **KATHI WOLFE**

WHEN MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM WAS A TEENAGER in a suburb of Los Angeles, he was into rock and roll. Books weren't part of his world.

Cunningham had no idea then that not only would he become an author, but that one day a big-time Hollywood movie would be based on one of his award-winning novels.

Last month, Cunningham attended the New York and Los Angeles premieres of the star-studded film "The Hours," based on his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name. Directed by Stephen Daldry and starring Nicole Kidman, Meryl Streep and Julianne Moore, the film opens locally on Jan. 17.

'The Hours' review, Page 31

"The Hours" is three linked stories, each of which takes place during a day in the life of a woman. One, set in a London suburb in 1923, shows real-life author Virginia Woolf (Nicole Kidman), with her husband Leonard, as she begins work on "Mrs. Dalloway."

Laura Brown (Julianne Moore) is a wife and mother in Los Angeles in 1951, who seeks refuge from her depression by reading "Mrs. Dalloway."

In present day New York, Clarissa Vaughan (Meryl Streep), an editor who lives with her partner Sally, is a modern day Mrs. Dalloway. She is giving a party for her friend Richard, a poet dying of AIDS.

"The Hours" made several best movie lists last year when it had a limited opening, receiving seven Golden Globe award nominations.

CUNNINGHAM DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF LITERATURE WHEN HE was growing up; he first read "Mrs. Dalloway" when he was 15.

"I was a kid on a skateboard, too young to know what Virginia Woolf was about," he says.

But Cunningham loved the musicality and beauty of Woolf's writing.

"I suddenly understood how much a book could be," he says. "I felt that Virginia Woolf did with language what Jimmy Hendrix did with his guitar."

Cunningham learned what it was like to be entranced by a book. Loving a book is like falling in love: "Who knows why we love this writer and not that writer?" Cunningham says. Reading "Mrs. Dalloway" changed "my stupid life."

Cunningham received a bachelor's degree in English literature from Stanford University.

"I like California. It's where I'm from. But I never thought of it as a place to write books. I moved east," says Cunningham, who received a master's degree in fine arts from the University of Iowa.

In addition to "The Hours," Cunningham wrote "A Home at the End of the World" (1990) and "Flesh & Blood" (1995). He received the Pen/Faulkner Award and the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for "The Hours."

Cunningham and his partner of 15 years now live in New York. The author also teaches at Brooklyn College, and the two spend their summers in Provincetown, Mass.

The accolades that his work receives belong to his partner as well as

Please see **HOURS** on **Page 43**

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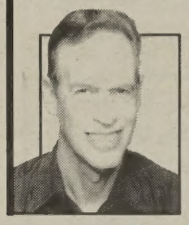

Three women in very different eras explore their **sexuality** through **Virginia Woolf's** 'Mrs. Dalloway,' including the author herself.

# As time goes by

"THE HOURS" BOASTS AN embarrassment of riches. The end result isn't embarrassing, but it may be too rich for some viewers' blood.

Take the acting, please. Several scenes resemble cage matches as some of the best in the business compete strategically. Julianne Moore shifts into subtle mode while Toni Collette chews the scenery. Miranda Richardson drops back as Nicole Kidman runs for a touchdown.

And when Meryl Streep says, "I seem to be in some strange sort of mood. I seem to be unraveling," Jeff Daniels lets her unravel.

Nobody unravels like Streep.

Streep and Ed Harris are more evenly matched in some of the film's best scenes. Stephen Dillane is well paired with Kidman, as is John C. Reilly with Moore. Gay director Stephen Daldry rehearsed his actors enough to know what he was getting and get what he wanted.

DAVID HARE'S SCRIPT IS SO CLEVER that a second viewing is required to grasp all its intricacies. It's adapted from gay author Michael Cunningham's novel, the story of women from three different eras who are affected by Virginia Woolf's book "Mrs. Dalloway," including the author herself, played by Kidman.

Visual and thematic links connect the stories, even though most of the characters never move between them.

Readers of "Mrs. Dalloway" and those familiar with Woolf's life will find bonus points of commonality.

Several suicides are threatened in the body of the film, but we are reminded at the outset that Woolf's didn't occur until 1941, 18 years after the day she began writing "Mrs. Dalloway."

"A woman's whole life in a single day" is her plan for the novel, which Cunningham and Hare honor by presenting the lives of three women, each in a single day.

AS WOOLF WRITES THE FIRST LINE in England in 1923, Laura Brown (Moore) is reading it in Los Angeles in 1951 and Clarissa Vaughan (Streep) is living it in New York in 2001 as she prepares for a party.

The party celebrates a lifetime achievement award won by poet Richard Brown (Harris), who was her lover before they both realized they preferred their own gender.

Laura is planning a more modest party for her husband's (Reilly) birthday with only their young son in attendance. She feels trapped in her outwardly perfect life.

**Meryl Streep**, **Julianne Moore** and **Nicole Kidman**, plus a heart-wrenching lesbian story line, make 'The Hours' heady, but worth watching. (Photo courtesy Paramount Pictures)

Woolf's husband Leonard (Dillane) lives with her in a London suburb on the recommendation of her doctor, who thinks the pace of the city would endanger her mental health.

THREE PAIRS OF WOMEN LOCK LIPS in this movie. The least passionate kiss is between a lesbian couple who has been together 10 years. Mrs. Dalloway had passionately kissed a girlfriend before she married Richard Dalloway, but she made the only socially acceptable choice of the day by foregoing her lesbian inclinations.

Whether that was based on Woolf's experience or not, Virginia plants a good one on her sister before she leaves; and Laura's kisses to console Kitty turn suddenly serious, perhaps explaining her dissatisfaction with her marriage.

With so much great acting, the performers who underplay are to be treasured. Harris, Kidman and Moore head that short list. Kidman's makeup is great and renders her unrecognizable. But in an early scene where she lights a cigarette, one fears for a moment that her prosthetic proboscis will go up in flames.

If nothing else, "The Hours" should make you glad to live in the 21st century, when people have more choices.

**MORE INFO**

'The Hours'

★★★ out of ★★★★

Queer Quotient: The director and the author of the source novel are gay. It can be viewed as a story of women of two bygone eras who repressed their gay leanings and one modern woman who doesn't.

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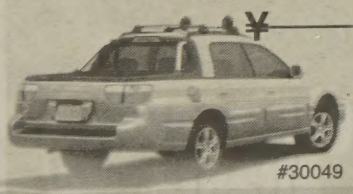
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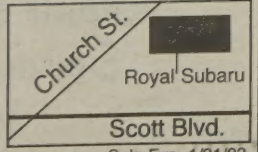

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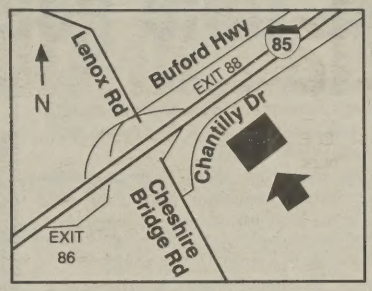


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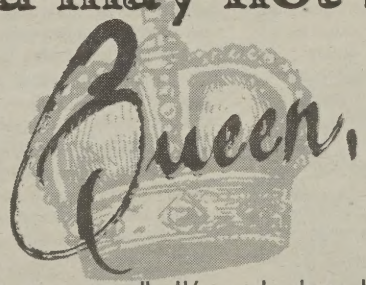

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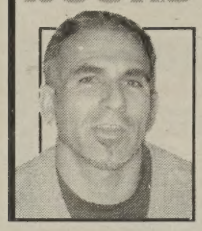


Biography explores self-obsessed hustler-turned-author John Rechy's dark side, plus his **reinvention of gay literature.**

# Man in the mirror

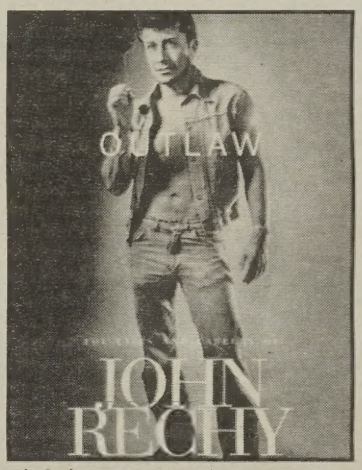
JOHN RECHY'S FIRST BOOK, "CITY OF Night," burst on the scene in 1963 like a slap in the face of the literary establishment.

His graphic descriptions of hustlers and their johns, poetic outbursts of rage against prevailing mores and raw talent shocked serious readers.

Unlike the prissy, tentative evasions of Gore Vidal, Truman Capote, James Baldwin or Tennessee Williams, this was pure, unadulterated man-sex, written large and well.

In his new biography, Charles Casillo goes behind Rechy's macho façade and butch posturing. What he finds isn't pretty.

Although he exhibited writing ability, taste and intelligence from his early childhood in El Paso, Texas, Rechy wrote out of wrenching psychological need. Like the Marquis de Sade or Jean Genet (whose undeniable influence remains unexplored here), Rechy wrote in creative bursts, like a volcano erupting after years of bubbling under the surface.




**John Rechy's** contribution to the '70s clone, his in-your-face sexual musings and his real life street hustling, made him a personality worth reconciling in Charles Casillo's biography.

FREUDIAN ANALYSIS PRODUCES SIMplistic literary criticism, but if there ever was a case of a classic oedipal complex, Rechy's life was made to order. Born to a failed Mexican immigrant musician, Rechy despised his father. He reveled in his disappointments and decline while worshipping his mother.

The result was the narcissism for which Rechy is nearly as well known as his writings. This is a man who never met a mirror he didn't love. The product of a repressive time for gays, Rechy retreated into a profound inability to acknowledge love for another man and a morbid fear of aging.

When he inadvertently discovered hustling on a trip to Times Square, he found an outlet for his sexual needs. By having someone pay for it, he could rationalize the sex act while reaffirming his desirability.

Even after he became a famous literary figure, Rechy continued to hustle. It not only provided an escape into fantasy, it enabled him to become the object of his own fantasy.

RECHY GRANTED CASILLO SEVERAL interviews, and the author has done his homework. The book explores every aspect of Rechy's development in a compact, lucid way that should be a model for every biographer.

But 300 pages may not be enough for such a complex figure, who single-handedly formed modern gay literature and paved the way for Edmund White, Andrew Holleran, Felice Picano and many others.

But Casillo's dogged exploration of Rechy's personality leaves gaps in the narrative. When he casually mentions Rechy's involvement in anti-Vietnam War protests, it is a jarring reminder that there was a whole world happening outside of Rechy's psyche.

If Casillo's approach ultimately works, it's because every one of Rechy's books is, to a large extent, autobiographical. As befits someone so profoundly self-involved, Rechy could find no better subject to explore than himself.

When Rechy became famous and later, when he began teaching university classes, his two sides would clash, often with comical results. His students quickly became used to seeing their professor soliciting sex in the farther reaches of Hollywood.

Rechy's pioneering prose broke the bonds of polite gay discourse, but his influence reaches far beyond literature. With his permanent uniform of jeans, open denim shirt or T-shirt, and his super-masculine swagger, Rechy was the ür-New Gay Man. Along with Tom of Finland's drawings, his writings gave birth to the '70s clone, the '80s Saint habitué and the '90s Chelsea boy.

The guy's got a lot to answer for.

**MORE INFO**

**'Outlaw: The Lives and Careers of John Rechy'**
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Gay fans may be most aware of clubby dance mixes from diva **Deborah Cox**, but R&B grooves make her a real star.

# Life beyond the remix

DEBORAH COX PROVES THAT THERE IS life after the clubby one-hit-wonders that plague so many singers.

Her remixed smash hits "Absolutely Not" and "Nobody Supposed To Be Here" were club sensations, but her new album demonstrates she is much more than just a powerhouse vocalist.

On "The Morning After," Cox shows off a sexy, soulful R&B sound that might pleasantly surprise her huge dance following.

Like Whitney Houston and Alicia Keys, Cox was discovered and mentored by music mogul Clive Davis. The Canadian-born songbird built a strong R&B reputation after the release of her 1995 self-titled debut album which included the charted hits "Sentimental" and "Who Do U Love."

With the 1998 release of the ballad "Nobody's Supposed To Be Here," Deborah's career began to skyrocket. The single sold over a million copies, reached No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 and spent 14 record-breaking weeks atop the R&B charts while a dance mix of the cut (by Hex Hector) became a gay club classic.

ON "THE MORNING AFTER," THE SINGER works together with an impressive bunch of R&B producers, such as Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis, Shep Crawford and Jermaine Dupri. The collaboration led to a mix of both upbeat dance-flavored grooves and laidback acoustic-flavored ballads. Cox co-wrote most of the songs, including the pristine "Hurt So Much" and the hip-hop-infused "Up & Down."

In a recent interview, Cox expressed excitement about her popularity among gays.

"The admiration and loyalty from my gay fans is amazing," she says. "Gays love glamorous singers and big voices. I guess I am one of those big voices.

"I don't mind being known by gays just for my dance remixes," she continues. "I am very serious about their production and adamant about re-singing the vocals for example to make sure the song will sound great on the dance floor."

Most people outside gay listeners know Cox for her R&B jams and ballads, she says.

"My ballads get played on more radio stations than my club mixes. In fact, my urban audiences are surprised to hear about the dance remixes."

IN 2002, THE SINGER TOURED WITH Lillith Fair.

"It was a great opportunity to be in front of a completely different audience," she says. "I have the feeling I won over a couple of new fans. People that would have otherwise never known me.

It is a misconception that certain audiences only appreciate a certain type of music, but gay fans' reaction to Cox's live performances is singular, she asserts.

'Absolutely Not' crooner **Deborah Cox** most recently performed at Club Blu in Atlanta, but her new CD 'The Morning After' proves she's much more than a dance diva.

"Performing at gay clubs is really over the top," Cox says. "The reaction to me performing live is something that really puts gays into a frenzy. I love to sing live, so the audience gets the pure vocal energy and on top of that my passion for performing. Gays are so appreciative that I put on a decent show."

Many singers think that club gigs are just a few minutes worth of work, but Cox spends an inordinate amount of time preparing, she says.

"I don't like to do just anything," she says. "I like to do special renditions of songs for the crowds and give them the opportunity to participate.

"It is really great, even though I am still getting used to being up at 5 a.m. in the morning," she says with a laugh.

**MORE INFO**

'The Morning After'
Deborah Cox
J-Records, 2002
http://www.deborahcox.com

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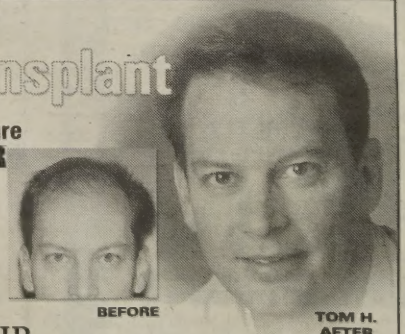


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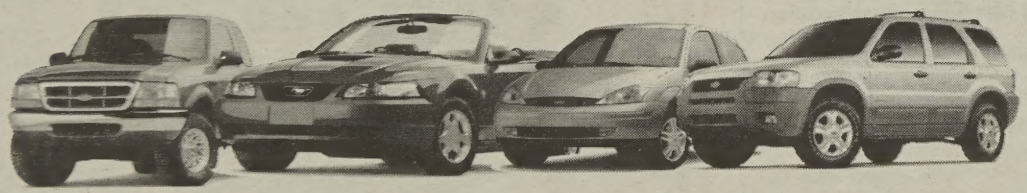

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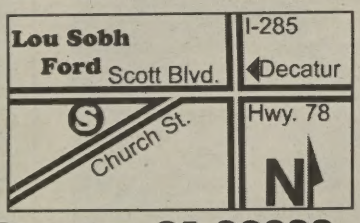


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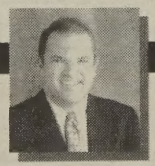

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# Ian casts a spell

## Hollywood seems confused whether gay actor McKellan will be part of 'Harry Potter' movies

OPENLY GAY ACTOR **IAN MCKELLAN** has taken Hollywood by storm in recent years. After his star-making turn in "Richard III," the movie world took notice of the veteran stage actor and began casting him in plum roles.

One of those is McKellan's definitive Gandalf the Grey, the wizard who leads a group of hobbits and humans to save the world from evil in the "Lord of the Rings" series. The movies are breaking box office records, and McKellan was nominated for an Academy Award for his performance in the first.

He seems to have done so well that the people behind the Harry Potter movie series may want him on board. On Dec. 27, the British television network ITV reported that McKellan would be taking over the role of Hogwart's headmaster Albus Dumbledore from **RICHARD HARRIS**, who died in October of Hodgkin's Disease.

But it seems now that McKellan intends to play only one wizard at a time. On New Year's Eve, E! Online reported that McKellan never really considered the role and that actor **MICHAEL GAMBON**, who starred in last year's Oscar contender "Gosford Park" officially accepted the "Potter" role.

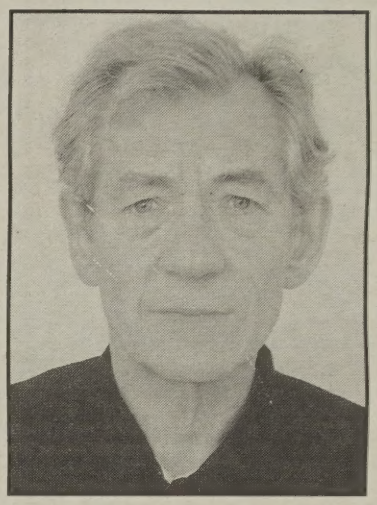
Well, that's a big lie, too.

On Jan. 3, TV Guide Online reported that Warner Bros. denied Gambon will be Dumbledore — and that McKellan actually is considering the role.

Another big lie.

"Ian McKellan has NOT agreed to succeed the late Richard Harris in the role of Dumbledore in the Harry Potter movies," said a statement on McKellan's Web site. "He has expressed interest in perhaps playing a different role some time in the future of the series."

The real answer seems to remain up for grabs.



Gay actor **Ian McKellan** is magical in his latest role as Gandalf the Grey in 'The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers.' (Photo courtesy of David Bartolomi)

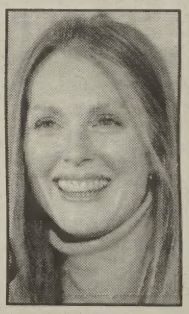
AFTER PLAYING THE WIFE OF A closet case in gay director **TODD HAYNES'** "Far From Heaven" and playing a closet case herself in the new film "The Hours," actress **JULIANNE MOORE** just gets gayer and gayer.

It seems to be something she enjoys, and she recently told London's Sunday Mirror that she would rather kiss someone like her "Hours" co-star **TONI COLLETTE** than a man.

"She smelled so nice," Moore told the paper. "You kiss a girl, and she is going to smell good. And she's very soft. They're soft and they smell nice. Guys don't."

And what's up next for Ms. Moore and her highly sensitive schnoz? She'll be playing a lesbian mother in the film adaptation of gay author ***AUGUSTEN BURROUGH***'s memoir "Running with Scissors."

There's sure to be something soft and smelly for her on the set.



**Julianne Moore** (Photo courtesy of AP)

YES, IT'S TRUE: gay writer/director **DON ROOS** is really making his movie "The Opposite of Sex" into a musical. No one knows who told him this would be a good idea, but Variety reports that the first act and 12 songs for the show are complete.

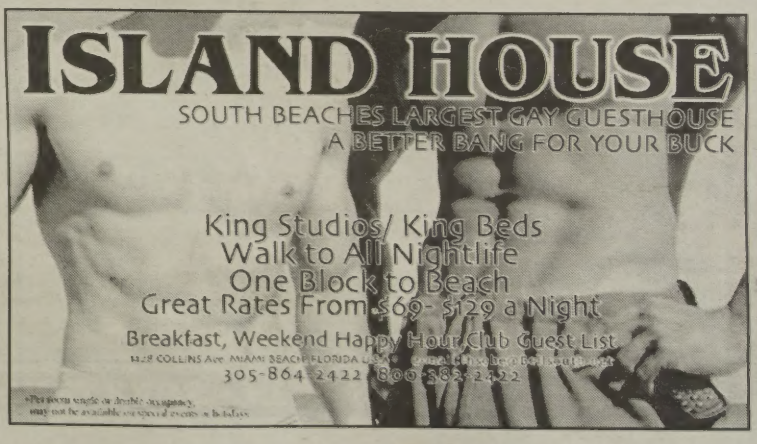
The musical version will follow the same plot as the movie, where a teenage girl (played superbly by **CHRISTINA RICCI** in the movie) steals her gay half-brother's boyfriend and then runs away with the boyfriend and her brother's ex-lover's ashes.

But this time there will be more singing and dancing, maybe a tap number, or maybe a cover of **DAVID BOWIE**'s "Ashes to Ashes," who knows?

Roos and the team converting the movie are shopping it around to raise money, and once they get backing, they hope to get the show on stage in 2004.

Dish fears the result will be the Opposite of Good.

@ Send comments, suggestions to Dish@sovo.com.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In addition to noisy replay of heralded 'Stomp,' **transgender artist Kt Kilborn** leads new theater season with fresh material, bevy of shows.

# Crackle of new year

WHAT'S THAT NOISE? IT MUST BE THE snap, crackle, and pop of the new year in local theaters, all of whom have fortunately gotten Christmas schmaltz out of their systems and moved on to bolder works.

At least most of them.

It's an unusually busy time right now on the theater scene. This week sees premieres including Kt Kilborn's "This Train" debut at Actor's Express.

"This Train" is broken into two acts — the first with two short pieces, one a serious show about "cross cultures in the dyke community," and the other a comedy about breaking up and skiing. The final act is Kilborn's acclaimed "Underground TRANSit."

According to the artist, the new show combines storytelling with live rock and roll (by Angela Mottier, Jerry Peek and Rocky Lindslay) in Kilborn's "journey of one white urban youth to a gender identity."

A recent graduate of Emory University, Kilborn, a self-acknowledged transgender feminist performer, worked on many of the university's theatrical events, before debuting "Underground TRANSit" there last year.

"TRANSIT" PROVED SO SUCCESSFUL, she has now performed it five times inn our area, including a stint at Theatre in the Square's backstage late last year, as part of a transgendered double feature by Theatre OUTlanta.

"What I offer here with the three shows contained within 'This Train' is my voice, matched with the music that moves me, and stitched with the social politics we must all negotiate," she says.

"I am a comedian, I am a boy, I am a critic, I am a woman, I am queer, I am a poet, I am an activist, I am an actor. I am riding a train, recording brief stops along the way, and offering them as art," says Kilborn, who was named Best Local Artist by Southern Voice readers.

Since "Underground TRANSit" began, it has changed subtly.

"I think it started out as spoken word, but it's turned into more story-telling," Kilborn explains. "It's always been the goal to make art that isn't didactic."

Actor's Express provides an opportunity to widen her audience even more, she says.

"This gender journey doesn't stop," she says. "I learn from the audiences I play for. I recently performed for my first transgendered audience."

ALSO OPENING THIS WEEK IS Essential Theatre's 2003 Festival of New American Theatre. Artistic director Peter Hardy offered his most commercial, most visible fest last year with works such as the fine "Book Of Days" and the uproarious "Betty's Summer Vacation."

Gender-bending performance artist **Kt Kilborn** debuts new material in 'This Train' this week at Actor's Express. The new show combines two fresh vignettes with Kilborn's popular 'Underground TRANSit.'

This year's trio of plays are David Lindsay-Abaire's "Fuddy Meers," Gregory Murphy's "The Countess" and the award-winning "Speaking Nazi" by Karen Page, about a dysfunctional family in Georgia awaiting the end of the world.

Elsewhere, Shakespeare Tavern is going out on a limb by staging its first musical, Stephen Sondheim's "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," directed by the estimable Heidi Cline. Never estimate Tavern's non-Bard work, though.

And finally, speaking of unexplained noise, Theater of the Stars bows its January triple bill this week with the loud, loud "Stomp," featuring brooms and trashcans running amok and making live music on stage.

## MORE INFO

**'This Train'**
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Actor's Express
887 W. Marietta St., NW
404-607-7469

**2003 Festival of New American Theatre**
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PushPush Theatre
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**'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum'**
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Shakespeare Tavern
499 Peachtree St., NE
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**'Stomp'**
Through Jan. 12
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## Manners mavens

'Miss Manners' among columnists who dish gay-friendly advice.

Page 29

# Uncle Sam doesn't want you

## Military ban continues as gays split over war effort

Page 11

(Photo of James Montgomery poster by AP; photo illustration by John Nail)

**ZELL'S OUT:** Political legend sets off scramble with retirement; Georgia legislature opens. **Pages 3, 4, 22**

**FREEDOM TO FORNICATE:** Georgia Supreme Court strikes down ban on unmarried sex. **Page 7**

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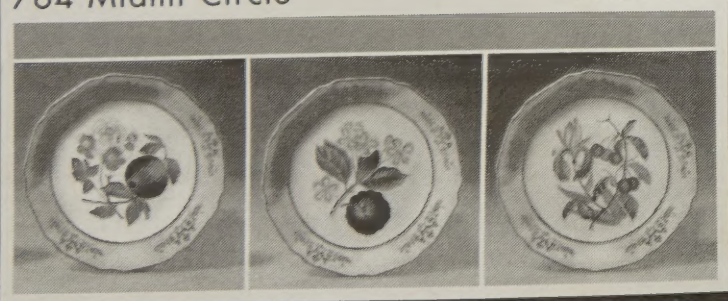

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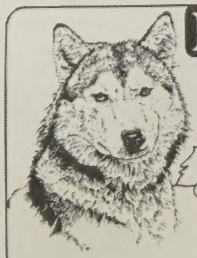

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# Gay legislator caught in political struggle

## First anti-gay billed filed on session's opening day

GOLD DOME WATCH

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

While incoming lawmakers painted a picture of conviviality as the 2003 legislative session opened Monday, the scene masked a two-month power struggle between two veteran lawmakers that left Georgia's only openly gay state legislator caught between her political party and a reported deal to protect gay interests.

After almost three decades as speaker of the state House of Representatives, Democrat Rep. Tom Murphy lost his bid for re-election in November, leaving a void in one of the state's most powerful legislative posts.

The same month, Democrats nominated Rep. Terry Coleman (D-Eastman) to be the next House speaker, pending an official vote when the legislature opened this week. But Rep. Larry Walker (D-Perry), a long-time friend of new Republican Gov. Sonny Perdue, attempted to cobble together a coalition of Republicans and breakaway Democrats to take the post.

Gay state Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale Estates) originally signed a letter of support for Coleman, but acknowledged negotiating with Walker last week as what promised to be a contentious floor vote neared.

But less than an hour before the Jan. 13 swearing-in ceremony, Walker pulled out of the race in a press conference at the capitol, saying he had enough votes to win, yet not enough to build a coalition.

The move left Drenner and more than two dozen other Democrats wondering about the ramifications of their considered support of Walker.

"In this era of bipartisan rhetoric and bipartisan control of the General Assembly, I honestly believe it would be irresponsible to not research all of my options," Drenner said Monday, shortly after she cast her vote for Coleman. "I have to do what is best for my district first and foremost, and I believe I did that."

Drenner said she was "bombarded" by calls from dozens of different sources urging her to vote for Coleman, "not a single one of them from within my district," but she was motivated to consider voting for Walker because of promises to protect gays.

"Other people negotiated for key office space or committee chairs," Drenner said. "I was promised there would be no ban against gay adoption and a hearing on the long-stalled civil rights bill."

Asked if the Democratic Party had made her a similar deal, Drenner said no.

Coleman did not respond to an interview request by press time.

### Gay lobbyists worried

Gay political activists disagreed over the impact of the speaker's race, but said gays should play close attention to legislative committee assignments under the new leadership in both the House and Senate.

The House speaker race "wouldn't have made much difference between two Democrats," said Bob Whitelaw, chair of the Georgia Stonewall Democrats, a partisan gay group. "What really matters is the increasingly conservative presence in the General Assembly this year and the negative impact that will have on gays."

But Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality, a non-partisan gay political group, called Coleman's win "good for us."

"On gay issues it wasn't the record of Walker versus Coleman," Thornell said. "Lynn Westmoreland would have been chairman of the Rules committee [if Walker won], and that wouldn't have been good for us."

The House speaker appoints committee chairs and assigns legislation to committees. Westmoreland, along with other Republican leaders in the House, led a petition effort last year to get a bill supporting the Boy Scouts discharged from the House Children & Youth Committee, although he has said he "doesn't think" gays have "anything to fear" from this year's legislature.

Across the hallway in the state Senate, Republicans made their majority status official Monday by stripping Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor, a Democrat, of his committee-appointment power.

The move could spell bad news for gays used to calling on Senate chairs to help stall anti-gay legislation in committees, according to gay lobbyist Larry Pellegrini, director of the Georgia Rural Urban Summit.

Republicans hold a 30-26 majority in the Senate; on Monday, Senate President Pro Tempore Eric Johnson (R-Savannah) appointed 21 Republicans and four Democrats to chair committees.

### Boy Scouts battle returns

Within minutes of the House Speaker vote, Rep. Earl Ehrhart (R-Powder Springs) refiled HB 37, the Defense of Scouting Act, which has consumed a large amount of gay political capitol the past two years.

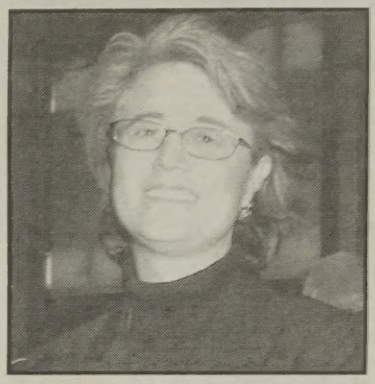
Seen by gays as an attempt to protect the Boy Scouts from public backlash over its ban on gays, the bill calls for the withdrawal of state funds from any public facility denying meeting space to a scout troop.

Ehrhart made Drenner his first visit on the way back from the Speaker's well.

"You and I have to have something to do," he joked. "If I didn't do this you might get to work on your own initiatives."

Still, veteran lawmakers downplayed the possibility of any anti-gay legislation getting through the House.

"The Democratic Party has historically been supportive of GLBT issues and I have every confidence we will continue to be that way," said Rep. Kathy Ashe (D-Atlanta).



Rep. **Karla Drenner** (D-Avondale Estates), Georgia's only openly gay state legislator, found herself caught in the battle between Rep. Larry Walker (D-Perry) and Rep. Terry Coleman (D-Eastman) over who would be the next House speaker. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

Party leaders seemed to agree.

"We would fight anything that would Calvin Smyre (D-Columbus), chair of the Democratic Party of Georgia.

## Perdue backs flag vote

Sworn in at Philips Arena on Monday afternoon, Sonny Perdue became the first Republican governor in Georgia in more than 130 years.

Members of the Georgia chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay partisan group, volunteered at the inaugural prayer service and the swearing-in ceremony, according to Marc Yeager, GLCR president

"We were honored to contribute to the inauguration festivities," Yeager said.

Yeager praised Perdue's inaugural address, which contained multiple religious references and no specific comments on gay issues.

"I believe Gov. Perdue envisions a new Georgia, created by our diversity, committed to our freedom, and united in our care for each other," Yeager said.

But other gay political activists have expressed concern that Perdue's campaign promise to allow citizens to vote on restoring the Confederate battle emblem to the state flag could end up paving the way for anti-gay ballot measures.

While Georgia law already allows for non-binding referendums, legislators would have to vote to amend the state Constitution to authorize binding public issue referenda.

In states that allow the binding votes on issues, gay groups have had to repeatedly battle anti-gay ballot measures, according to City Council President Cathy Woolard, who is gay.

On Tuesday, Perdue said he supports a non-binding referendum on the flag, allowing citizens to vote on the issue but leaving an official decision in the hands of the legislature.

The procedure to authorize binding votes would take too long, Perdue said.

Jennifer J. Smith

# inside

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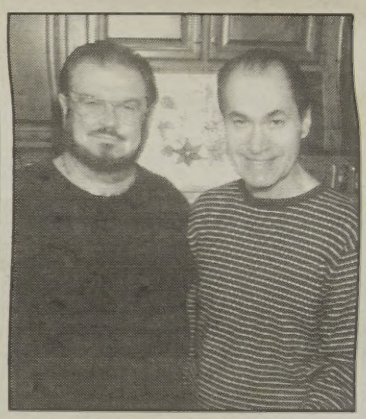
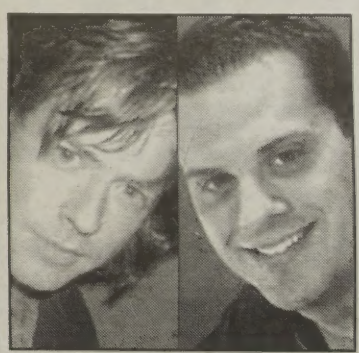
**MOVING OUT:** Homeless gay youth will soon move out of **CHRIS Rainbow Home**, as lost grant funding forces the program to downsize and relocate. **Page 6**



**MOVER AND SHAKER: Bob** and **Dave Cozzoinger** hope to mobilize gays who live Outside the Perimeter with their Lambda Group and a grassroots campaign to help elderly gays. **Page 19**



**STRAIGHT PRIDE:** Atlanta radio station 96 Rock, which has riled gay listeners in the past, recently hired DJs **'Dick & Justice,'** whose past antics included 'Heterosexual Pride Parade.' **Page 27**

local news

# Miller decides against second term

## Popular Georgia senator leaves behind mixed record on gay issues as possible successors consider '04 campaign

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

As politicians across Georgia consider their chances at replacing U.S. Sen. Zell Miller in 22 months, gay activists are hoping for candidates who might improve on his mixed record of support for gay civil rights.

This week two Republicans — moderate U.S. Rep. Johnny Isakson and anti-gay former U.S. Rep. Bob Barr — announced their interest in the seat. Isakson became the first declared candidate in the race on Wednesday.

Miller, the popular conservative Democrat and former governor, surprised political observers on Jan. 8 when he announced he won't seek another term in 2004, creating a race for an open Senate seat that is sure to draw national attention as the national political parties struggle for control in a nearly evenly split U.S. Senate.

"I will not be a candidate for re-election in 2004," Miller said in a prepared statement. "It has been a great honor to serve as a U.S. senator from Georgia, and I thank Gov. [Roy] Barnes for appointing me and the people of Georgia for electing me."

Miller, who eschews the political life he found in Washington, said his early announcement provides potential candidates time to prepare their campaigns. But Miller said he would not campaign for, nor endorse, any candidate in the race, depriving potential Democratic nominees of a guaranteed boost.

### Mixed record

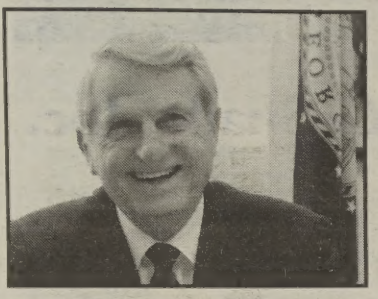
Miller made a political career of focusing on "kitchen table issues," items that common Georgians chew over at their kitchen table. That left a list of gay issues that he supported much shorter than the ones he opposed.

"I don't think if gays were creating an ideal senator they would pick Zell Miller," said Charles Bullock, a political scientist at the University of Georgia. "But I think they would chose him over most Republicans."

Miller signed a pledge not to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring in his Senate office and supports a gay-inclusive hate crimes measure. But he opposes the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, gays serving openly in the military, gay Boy Scout leaders and same-sex marriages.

"While Zell Miller was a supporter of hate crimes legislation, he was not a co-sponsor of, nor did he ever have the opportunity to vote for, ENDA," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign.

Miller received a 57 out of 100 rating from HRC, leaving plenty of room for improvement, but the risk of his replacement by a more conservative member is reason for concern, Bullock said.



U.S. Sen. **Zell Miller** (D-Ga.) has set into a motion a scramble among politicians in the state seeking to replace the popular figure when he retires from the Senate next year. (Photo by Dennis Cook/AP)

The popular politician has been criticized for moving from Democratic to Republican positions and back again, earning him the nickname "Zigzag Zell."

When it came to gay issues, however, Miller often won't budge, gay activists said.

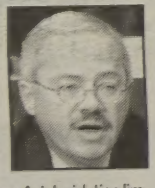
"I can't think of a single positive thing he did for gays while governor," said Allen Thornell, executive director of Georgia Equality, a statewide nonpartisan gay advocacy group.

As governor, Miller signed the 1996 Georgia Defense of Marriage Act, which

Please see SENATE on Page 9

# Possible candidates for U.S Senate seat

Only one candidate has formally announced a campaign to fill the retiring seat of U.S. Sen. Zell Miller, but political observers said several politicians of both parties may enter the fray.



Former U.S. Rep. **Bob Barr**, considered one of the most anti-gay Republicans in Congress, was the lead sponsor of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, legislation limiting marriage to a man and a woman. In an opinion piece published in the Capitol Hill newspaper in 1997, Barr called the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a measure that would ban anti-gay bias in employment, the "Preferences for Homosexuals Act." Two years later Barr publicly stated he considered gay-inclusive hate crimes legislation to be a back-door way to obtain protected status for sexual deviancy. Barr received a score of 0 out of 100 from the Human Rights Campaign on its recent scorecard for Congress. Barr said Wednesday he is forming an exploratory committee to investigate a possible run.

Former U.S. Sen. **Max Cleland**, who list a bitter re-election campaign last November, is viewed as a frontrunner, though he has not spoken out on the race. The gay-friendly Democrat supports ENDA, gay-inclusive hate crimes legislation, and received a perfect score on the HRC's scorecard. Cleland often spoke at gay events and cultivated gay support and fund-raising, though he downplayed gay issues during his last campaign.

Secretary of State **Cathy Cox**, a popular Democrat who also coasted to re-election last year, isn't well known among gays, but spoke to a gay business group in October. Cox has said she's still "formulating her platform" on gay issues. She has stopped short of supporting domestic partner benefits for state employees and gay civil unions.

U.S. Rep. **Johnny Isakson**, a Republican, announced on Wednesday that he will seek the seat. Considered a moderate who has had a tough time winning Republican party primaries, often dominated by religious conservatives, Isakson has a mixed record on gay issues. He garnered a 17 out of 100 score on HRC's Congressional scorecard.

On Wednesday, he said he would not support ENDA in the legislation's current form. "Not until it's drafted in a way that is right for business," he said. "But I think I've demonstrated in my private life and in my congressional office where we hire only the best people that I don't discriminate." Isakson met with the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans on Aug. 15 and said he opposes discrimination on the basis of "sexual preference."

Georgia Insurance Commissioner **John Oxendine**, a Republican who won a third term last November and received the largest number of votes of any candidate in any race in Georgia, has a long history of opposing gay civil rights. Oxendine refused to allow domestic partner benefits in the state until ordered by Fulton County Superior Court.

Lt. Gov. **Mark Taylor**, a Democrat who coasted to a second term despite a Republican roll in state politics last November, has expressed interest in the 2006 governor's race. Republicans reduced Taylor's influence over the state Senate this week, which will make it more difficult for him to bottle up anti-gay legislation, as he has done in the past. Taylor repeatedly refused requests for interviews from gay media during his campaign last year, though he has appeared at gay events and fund-raisers.

Jennifer J. Smith

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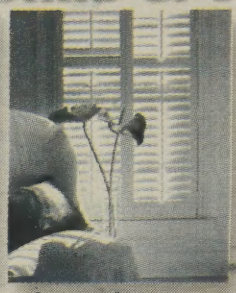
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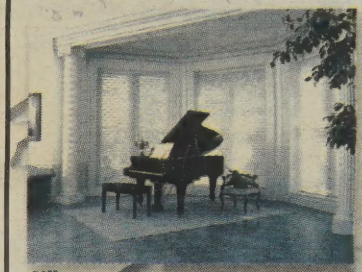
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local news

# Gay youth shelter downsizes to remain open

## Rainbow Home relocates to cut costs after losing grant

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

The CHRIS Rainbow Home, an Atlanta shelter for homeless gay youth, pooled its resources over the last three months to raise $123,000 — about $77,000 shy of the amount needed to continue running as it has for the past three years, officials said.

Year-end fundraising did not make up for the loss of a three-year grant from the federal Administration for Children & Families in the Department of Health & Human Services, according to Kathy Colbenson, executive director of CHRIS Homes, which operates the facility.

The Rainbow Home's current grant, which covered 62 percent of the home's annual budget, expires at the end of February. CHRIS Homes applied for a new grant for the gay shelter, but learned in October that it would not be approved.

A Dec. 31 letter from the federal government explained reasons that the Rainbow Home did not receive the grant. The letter "details the strengths and weaknesses of my grant" and is riddled with inconsistencies, Colbenson said.

In one case, the letter listed the same circumstance as both a strength and a weakness, she said.

"One of the things it says is I did not prove the need to specialize in that particular population, although I had," she said. "I got a needs analysis survey and a letter from Fulton County Human Services stating that there were no other services for that population and that they were desperately needed. And I had the city council and mayor saying the same thing."

Rainbow Home supporters launched a massive fund-raising drive to make up for the lost grant, but efforts fell short of rent requirements at the currently occupied house in East Atlanta, Colbenson said.

The shelter will stay open by moving to a new location at the end of February. "What we are going to be doing is moving into apartments and shifting the staffing patterns," she said.

The youth will relocate to a two-bedroom apartment, reducing the number of beds in the Rainbow Home from six to four. The apartment is located near the offices of CHRIS Homes, which hosts the skills training courses that help occupants prepare for life on their own, she said.

CHRIS officials are pleased that enough money was raised to keep the program open, but the home is "going to have to continue raising money because it is the only incoming money we have," Colbenson said.

The group plans a community meeting Jan. 23 to get the ball rolling for future fund-raising and establish a fund-raising committee to discuss strategies to enhance the program, she said.

"The meeting is about how to sustain the Rainbow Home," Colbenson said.

Rainbow Home Campaign Manager Edward Gray listed three upcoming fund-raising events already slated.

The Rainbow Home is calling Super Bowl Sunday "Changing the Cycle of Abuse Day" and asking area restaurants and bars to provide patrons with the opportunity to donate spare change in coin collection boxes Jan. 24-26, Gray said.

On Feb. 1, St. Mark's Church will host a Rainbow Cabaret in its Performing Arts Center with all proceeds going to the Rainbow Home, and on Feb. 14, Red Chair Restaurant & Video Lounge agreed to allow Rainbow Home representatives to spread information about the home and solicit funds.

The Hotlanta Volleyball Association hosted its 11th Annual Hotlanta Winter Invitational on Jan. 11 at Agnes Scott College as a benefit for CHRIS Rainbow Home. Tournament sponsors and 11 teams with 104 participants raised $1,100 for the home, according to an HVA press release.

**MORE INFO**

**CHRIS Rainbow Home Community Meeting**
Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m.
CHRIS Homes headquarters
3111 Clairmont Rd., Ste. B
404-486-9034
www.chrishomes.org

# AIDS agency funding threatened by application gaffe

## Ryan White director says Absolute Wellness request rejected over errors

By JENNIFER J. SMITH

The federal funding of a facility designed to help people with HIV improve their physical fitness and mental health is in jeopardy over administrative disagreements, according to an official with Absolute Wellness.

The facility, part of the Brandon Ross Abernathy Community Center located in a strip shopping center near the intersection of Piedmont Road and Sydney Marcus Boulevard, is fighting to keep alive its application for $238,893 in federal funding from the Ryan White Care Act.

The application was rejected by the Fulton County office that oversees the grant process for not linking its budget requests to specific goals and guidelines, according to Jeff Cheek, director of the Ryan White program for Fulton County. The program expects in March to distribute about $17.5 million in federal AIDS funds to metro Atlanta agencies.

An Absolute Wellness official said the agency is being penalized for what amounts to clerical errors, criticism that surfaced last year when the funding of a handful of local AIDS agencies was jeopardized after applications were submitted minutes after the deadline.

Some grants were made to those four groups after additional federal funds became available.

Errors led Absolute Wellness' application for federal AIDS funds to be rejected, according to **Jeff Cheek**, director of the Ryan White program for Fulton County. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

"We have some concerns that what amounts to a disagreement over interpreting administrative instructions could stand in the way of hundreds of needy and deserving people getting treatment," said Tim Rease, a board member and assistant to the nonprofit group's executive director.

The Ryan White application asks agencies to fill out line item budget requests, and separately give goals and guidelines for how those funds will be used, Cheek said.

"Nothing on their application could be funded because they didn't tie their budget items to goals and guidelines, so there is no reason to even review it," Cheek said.

Two other groups — Urban Ministries and Miracles AIDS Network — were also dropped from the application process for missing the application deadline, Cheek said.

Urban Ministries received about $20,000 in Ryan White funding last year; Miracle AIDS Network applied last year, but its grant was rejected.

Absolute Wellness, which provides alternative therapies like acupuncture and massage, has received federal Ryan White funding since 1997. The group met the Dec. 6 application deadline, but received a letter two weeks later that said the application was being dismissed over the incomplete information, Rease said.

Last year, Absolute Wellness received nearly $239,000 in Ryan White funds, up from $167,000 in 2001. The $238,893 the group asked for this year represents about 85 percent of its annual budget, which helps serve its 1,500 registered clients, according to project director Barry Abromovage.

"We aren't just going to roll over," Rease said. "It's the principle of the matter. These people are too important for us to just accept something like this."

Absolute Wellness filed a grievance Jan. 6, but a second round of paperwork errors prompted the county to throw it out, Cheek said. A subsequent grievance was filed Jan. 9, which was also rejected.

"The grievance application specifically says that by entering the process the agency agrees to seek no other remedy until the grievance process is complete," Cheek said. "And they turned around the same week and filed a grievance with the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, nullifying their second grievance with us."

Rease said he spoke to the Fulton County Commission Jan. 8, but that should not be considered as filing a separate complaint.

Rob Simms, chief of staff for Fulton County Commission Chair Mike Kenn, said the matter is up to the Ryan White office.

"It's my understanding that there is some kind of prohibition about public comment during the process," Simms said. "But whether that disqualifies their grievance is up to the program, not us."

Rease said the facility is considering its next move, which could include filing a third grievance.

But Absolute Wellness will immediately seek funding from alternative sources, including emergency funding when its 2002 Ryan White funding is depleted next month, Rease said.

"Cuts are possible down the road, but we'll do everything we can to fix the problem before that happens," he said.

**MORE INFO**

**Absolute Wellness**
2581 Piedmont Road, Suite A-100
404-264-9011

**Fulton County Ryan White Projects**
141 Pryor Street
8th Floor, Suite 8025
404-730-8204

local news

# Georgia Supreme Court throws out fornication law

## Ban on sex out of wedlock made gay sex illegal

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

A legal case involving two heterosexual teens caught in a sexual act by one of their mothers ended this week with the Georgia Supreme Court gutting a law that also made all gay sexual relationships illegal.

The high court ruled unanimously Monday that a 170-year-old law that banned sex outside of marriage violates the right to privacy guaranteed by the state constitution.

"The Georgia Constitution protects from criminal sanction private, unforced, non-commercial acts of sexual intimacy between persons legally able to consent," wrote Chief Justice Norman S. Fletcher on behalf of the court.

"Georgia's seldom and selectively enforced fornication law, that once landed citizens on the chain gang, is essentially a dead letter," said Gerry Weber, legal director for the ACLU of Georgia, which brought the case.

The court based this week's ruling on its 1998 decision in Powell v. State, when, in a huge victory for gay rights advocates, the justices threw out Georgia's sodomy law.

While the fornication law did not have the same symbolic value to many gays as the sodomy law, it also held the potential for unfair enforcement, according to Beth Littrell, a staff attorney with the Georgia ACLU and co-counsel on the case.

"I think this law has a large impact on the gay and lesbian community, because they cannot rid themselves of the criminality if they are ever to engage in sexual intimacy," said Littrell, who is gay.

"Whereas heterosexual people have the option of marrying [to keep from breaking the fornication law], homosexual couples are banned from doing that," she said.

The ACLU challenged the constitutionality of the fornication law on behalf of J.M., identified only by his initials in court records. He was convicted of fornication March 15 in Fayette County Juvenile Court. The young man and his girlfriend, both 16 at the time, were found by the girl's mother engaging in sex in the girl's bedroom after the young man sneaked in, according to court documents.

Georgia's fornication law had a disproportionate impact on gays, because gays cannot marry, according to ACLU attorney **Beth Littrell**.

The age of the couple raised concerns for the Southeastern Legal Foundation, a conservative legal group based in Atlanta.

"Yesterday's decision from the Georgia Supreme Court regarding the state's so-called 'fornication' law raises the specter that we may be witnessing an erosion of legal protections for young people," Phil Kent, president of the foundation, said Tuesday.

"As a result, early indications suggest that the permissive liberal lobby may attempt to lower the age of consent in Georgia below the current 16 years of age," Kent said, noting that his group would fight any such efforts.

But Littrell said she is not aware of any attempt to lower Georgia's age of consent.

"The legislature, in its wisdom, decides the age of consent, and that is absolutely not an ACLU concern," she said.

The Fayette County district attorney's office also focused on the couple's young age in its brief defending the fornication statute, noting that both were still minors under Georgia law.

When the state Supreme Court struck down the sodomy law, Fayette Assistant District Attorney Jamie Inagawa noted, the justices focused on the right to privacy in sexual acts "committed by adults."

But while the two young people were under the age of 18, they both were already 16, the age of consent for sexual intercourse in Georgia, the ACLU countered.

The Supreme Court agreed with the ACLU in its decision, noting that the teens "were legally capable of consenting, and they willingly engaged in sexual intercourse."

The court also disagreed with Inagawa's assertion that the young man did not have a right to privacy because he had sneaked into the girl's room, with her invitation but not her family.

By closing the door and blocking it with a stool, the teens "intended to keep their sexual activity private and took reasonable steps to ensure their privacy," the court ruled.

In 1998, the state Attorney General's office helped defend the sodomy statute. But the state chose not to get involved in the fornication case, leaving it to Fayette County to defend the law.

"I think it is fair to say that this signals that Georgia lawmakers who attempt to legislate morality are going to have a heavier burden," Littrell said. "That is good for gays and lesbians and all Georgians."

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# Gays concerned about replacement for Miller

SENATE, continued from Page 4

reaffirmed the state's limitation of marriage to a man and a woman. He also did not support the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, a program funded in part by states to provide HIV medication to people without insurance, according to Thornell.

Miller declined interview requests for this article.

His mixed record on gay issues will probably spur a similar reaction among gays, Bullock said.

"His leaving should definitely cause some concern among gays," Bullock said. "Whether it's because they now have an opportunity to move in someone more sensitive to their issues, or because they will need to fight off a more conservative candidate, it should be on their radar."

Local gay activists agreed.

"I see this as an opportunity to get a centrist elected," said Bob Whitelaw, chair of the Georgia Stonewall Democrats, a group for gay Democrats.

Representatives for the gay Georgia Log Cabin Republicans did not respond to interview requests by press time.

Miller served two terms as governor, from 1990 to 1998, and spent 16 years as lieutenant governor before that. Then-Gov. Roy Barnes tapped Miller in July 2000 to fill the U.S. Senate seat of Republican Paul Coverdell when he died. Four months later, Miller won a special election with 58 percent of the vote on a crowded, seven-candidate ballot.

In the Senate, Miller has left his fingerprints on several high-profile pieces of legislation and frequently aligned himself with President Bush, angering fellow Democrats.

He campaigned for former Sen. Max Cleland, who lost his re-election bid last November. When Democrats controlled the Senate by a slim margin last year, Miller was often the focus of speculation that he would switch political parties to match his conservative voting record.

## Opening the 'floodgate'

Potential replacements for Miller lost no time throwing their hats into the ring after his announcement. More are expected.

"After the inauguration, you'll see the floodgates open up," said former U.S. Rep. Bob Barr, who announced Wednesday the formation of an exploratory committee to evaluate a possible campaign for the U.S. Senate seat or a return to the House.

Two days earlier, at the inauguration of Gov. Sonny Perdue, Barr declined comment on a possible U.S. Senate campaign.

"We're here today to celebrate the governor's swearing in, and that's all," Barr said.

Miller's announcement means a seat that was previously considered safely Democratic is now "up for grabs," according to Bullock.

"There's going to be an awful lot of people interested," Bullock said. "The Republican will want it to increase their majority in the Senate, the Democrats will want to hold onto it, and the national focus will make it easier for them to raise big money for the race."

In addition to Barr, U.S. Rep. Phil Gingrey (R-Ga.) said at Perdue's inauguration that fellow Republican House members Mac Collins, Jack Kingston and Johnny Isakson, along with former state Rep. Bob Irvin have all expressed interest in the seat.

Isakson jumped into the race on Wednesday during an afternoon press conference at the State Capitol, becoming the first announced candidate for the seat in either party.

"I believe my record and reputation demonstrate a commitment to find common ground and build coalitions," Isakson said.

Gay Republicans supported the announcement.

"We are excited that Congressman Isakson has announced his intention to run for Miller's seat," said Marc Yeager, president of the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans.

Georgia Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine, who refused to approve domestic partner benefits in Georgia until forced to do so by a judge, has also indicated interest in the race.

Democrats are also exploring the race.

On Monday, Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor suggested that Secretary of State Cathy Cox, state Attorney General Thurbert Baker and Georgia Department of Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond will all be good bets for the race.

"I think they would all be great at the job and would make wonderful candidates," Taylor said, who pundits have also mentioned as a possible candidate.

Former U.S. Sen. Max Cleland (D-Ga.) is also considered a favorite if he stepped into the race, as well as Barnes, though the former governor has said he's not interested.

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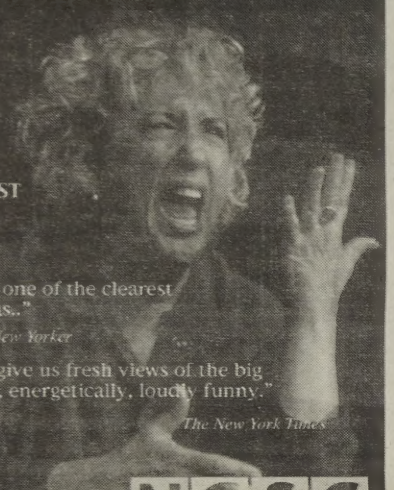

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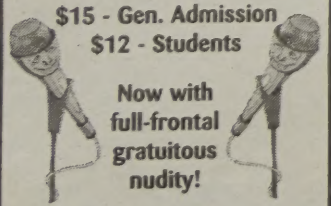

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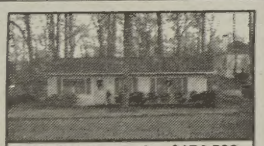

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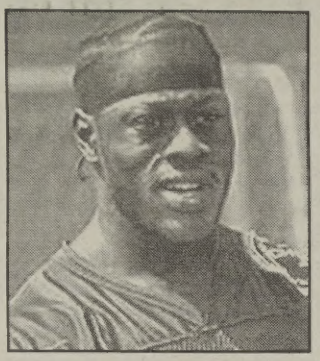
# national news

## N.Y. Jets player latest in NFL to make anti-gay comments



New York Jets defensive back **Nick Ferguson** told radio shock jock Howard Stern last week that he wouldn't want to shower with gay teammates. (Photo courtesy NFL Europe)

NEW YORK — New York Jets football player Nick Ferguson told radio shock jock Howard Stern on Jan. 10 that he wouldn't want to share a shower with a gay player, according to the New York Daily News. Ferguson, a defensive back, said he didn't know of any gay players on the Jets. If there were, "Outside, I don't care," Ferguson said. "But I would let him go into the shower alone." Ferguson also joked about gay players on the Oakland Raiders. "It's California," Ferguson said. "After all, it is not far from San Francisco." Ferguson is the latest in a string of NFL players to speak out against gay players. In November, San Francisco 49ers running back Garrison Hearst apologized for telling a local newspaper, "I don't want any faggots on my team." New York Giants rookie Jeremy Shockey also apologized Sept. 26 for saying on Stern's radio show that he wouldn't "stand for" gay teammates. "They're going to be in the shower with us and stuff, so I don't think that's going to work," he said.

### Fired cross-dresser drops lawsuit against Winn-Dixie

NEW ORLEANS — A trucker fired by Winn-Dixie because he sometimes dresses as a woman off duty dropped his lawsuit against the grocery chain, saying he did not like his chances for victory in the nation's conservative political environment. A federal judge ruled against Peter Oiler last September and refused to reconsider the case in November. Oiler said further defeats might have set back anti-discrimination efforts. "I'm afraid I would have done more harm to the cause than good," he told the Associated Press. Oiler, who is heterosexual, was fired in January 2000 after working for Winn-Dixie super markets for 20 years, the last 16 as a truck driver. In his lawsuit, he sought unspecified damages for lost wages and emotional distress. U.S. District Judge Lance Africk ruled that Oiler is not protected by the federal law against sex discrimination. Winn Dixie is now seeking money from Oiler to cover the $9,000 that the company spent defending itself from the lawsuit. A hearing is scheduled for Feb. 5.

### Cities pass trans, gay rights laws

KEY WEST, Fla. — The city commission in Key West, the Florida town long known for its gay-friendly policies, voted Jan. 6 to expand the local human rights ordinance to ban "gender identity and expression" discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing and banking, Reuters reported. Mayor Jimmy Weekley is expected to sign the measure into law, making Key West the first Florida city to ban bias against the transgendered. Some 44 cities around the country have similar policies. "Throughout my life, there have been incredible characters who've been drag queens. All of these people deserve to work and to have a roof over their heads," said City Commissioner Tom Oosterhoudt, who is gay. A day later, the city council in Illinois' capital city of Springfield voted 8-1 to add sexual orientation to the city's non-discrimination ordinance, according to the State Journal-Register.

### Gay porn appears in N.Y. cable show on Army

WEBSTER, N.Y. — A community action cable television show airing in Webster was replaced on Jan. 6 with about 20 minutes of military-themed gay pornography, the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle reported. The porn appeared during "Army Newswatch," a program produced by the U.S. Army, and town officials are unsure why. "How it got through and on the air, I don't know," said Mike Auger, who leads cable television services for the town. "That's what we are investigating now." Time-Warner Communications provides the channel and studio for the station, but Brian Wirth, vice president for government affairs, said the switch had to come from someone at the studio, Wirth said.

### Legislatures in Conn., Mont. weigh gay rights proposals

HARTFORD, Conn. — A committee of the Connecticut state legislature on Jan. 6 forwarded to the full General Assembly its review of the same-sex marriage issue, but did not make any specific recommendations, according to the Associated Press. "We weren't voting for or against any particular policy change," said Rep. Michael Lawlor, co-chair of the committee. Supporters of gay marriage accepted compromise legislation last year that allows a person in Connecticut to legally designate another person to make medical decisions and end-of life choices, such as organ donation and life support. It also allows for private visits in nursing homes and requires employers to allow emergency phone calls from the legally designated person. As part of the compromise, lawmakers were mandated to further study the issue this year. Meanwhile, the legislature in Montana is considering a bill to expand the state's hate crime law to include sexual orientation, gender and disability, according to the Billings Gazette.

**From staff and wire reports**

national news

# Preparing for war under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

## Gay service members speak out as gay discharges continue

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

Sandra, now 21, was 17 when she signed up for an eight-year stint in the Marine Corps Reserves. Although the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was already in place, she cites an ironic reason for choosing to enlist: "They give you money for school, and my girlfriend was going in."

But as Sandra, now single, prepared to ship out last week for an assignment in the Middle East, she expressed fear and frustration over both the gay ban and the war.

"At first, I saw [the gay ban] as a challenge. One of my goals in life was to get in the Marine Corps, do really well because I knew that I could, then at some point get out and fight for gay rights in the military, because I could say 'Look at how well I did,'" she said.

"But now I don't really believe in what the military stands for," she continued. "In boot camp, when they tell you to scrub the floor, and you have to do it whether you want to or not — it's not a big deal. But someone telling you to go fight a war and kill people is a totally different thing."

Sandra, of course, isn't her real name. The Marine's name and exact details of her military assignment have been withheld because of concerns about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which bans openly gay service members.

But despite the ban, Sandra and thousands of other gay men and lesbians currently serve in the military, although it is impossible to know exactly how many, according to the Service members Legal Defense Network, a non-profit group dedicated to helping those affected by "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Later this week, SLDN will release a fact sheet addressing many of the questions the group is getting from gay service members as the military mobilizes for possible war with Iraq.

"Many are calling with questions about how to stay in contact with their partner while they are deployed, how to make sure their partner is notified if something happens to them when they are deployed, and how to designate their partner as their beneficiary if they are killed while they are deployed," said Steve Ralls, communications director for SLDN.

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Having to deal with this extra level of questions while also facing the fear of going off to war illustrates the injustice of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," said the president of Gay & Lesbian Service Members for Equality, a new group of 15 gay men and women on active duty in the military.

"Many, including myself, have had to face the fact of leaving our partners and loved ones, either in reassignment or deployment, without support, without benefits, and without the recognition of the U.S. government," said the man, who serves in the junior enlisted ranks of the Army but cannot disclose his name because of DADT.

The military likely won't drop its ban on openly gay service members for a possible war with Iraq, but gay soldiers say they will continue to serve honorably if discreetly. (Photo by AP; photo illustration by John Nail)

### Gay ban likely to stay

Earlier this month, Gay & Lesbian Service Members for Equality sent a letter to Congressional leaders asking for the gay ban to be dropped if the draft is reinstated.

"In this time of shared sacrifice, we believe that the military cannot afford to waste the talent of any American who is able to serve," read the letter, sent Jan. 6. to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

The letter came just three days after Northwestern University Professor Charles Moskos, the military sociologist considered the architect of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," also said open gays should be drafted.

"You can't use a gay ban with a draft because that would make it too easy for people to get out," Moskos said in a conversation with the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, a research project of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

"Since even the most prominent opponent of gays in the military now admits that integration could take place without significant problems, it is clear that the rationale for the policy is simply without merit," said Aaron Belkin, director of the center.

But both reinstating the draft and rescinding the gay ban appear unlikely.

Although U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY) introduced legislation to reinstate the draft, he said he opposes the war with Iraq and made the suggestion only because he believes political leaders would be less likely to support it if their own children may be called to fight.

The Bush administration, including Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, has repeatedly said the draft is unnecessary.

Meanwhile, the Marine Corps last week became the first military branch to announce it would continue discharging gays even as the country prepares for war, and activists expect other branches to follow suit.

On Jan. 9, the Marines issued a "Stop-Loss" order suspending discharges for at least 12 months on nearly all grounds except for violations of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

During the 1989 Persian Gulf War, gay discharges were halted under a sweeping Stop-Loss order that applied to troops in all four branches of the military. Some gay service members, who fought in battles in the Kuwaiti desert, faced immediate discharges

Please see WAR on Page 15

# Gay groups divided over possible conflict in Iraq

## Task Force opposes war as other local, national groups join dissent

By RHONDA SMITH

WASHINGTON — The opposition of some U.S. gay groups to military action in Iraq made news as far away as Australia last week, when the gay Sydney Star-Observer published a Jan. 9 story headlined "U.S. gays launch war on war."

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force is the largest gay advocacy organization to take a stand against possible war. On Dec. 26, the group announced it has joined a broad coalition of civic, religious and political groups called "Keep America Safe: Win Without War."

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition also announced Wednesday that it had joined Keep America Safe.

"Unprovoked war will increase human suffering, arouse animosity toward our country, increase the likelihood of terrorist attacks, damage the economy and undermine our moral standing in the world," said coalition members, which also include the National Council of Churches, the NAACP, the Sierra Club and the National Organization for Women.

In a written statement, organizers at NGLTF urged gay organizations to join the Keep America Safe coalition.

But David Smith, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political organization, said that group does not plan to take a stand on the issue.

"We believe that such a statement would fall outside of our specific mission, which is to ensure that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people achieve equality in today's society," he said.

Log Cabin Republicans, a nationwide gay political group, endorsed the Bush administration's efforts in Iraq.

"We certainly support the president on his war on terror," said Mark Mead, a LCR spokesperson. "If that means we need to have a regime change in Iraq to protect American lives here and abroad, then we support those efforts."

In recent months, some gay rights activists accused NGLTF of "dragging its feet" about joining the anti-war movement.

Out Against the War, a grassroots gay coalition in San Francisco that often uses the Internet to organize supporters, called for a boycott of NGLTF in December because the organization had not opposed war.

"We felt they were moving too slow," said Kevin Weaver, a gay rights activist in San Francisco and one of the NGLTF's most vocal critics.

Lorri Jean, NGLTF executive director, said the group's leaders took more time to conduct research and analyze the issue before announcing their stance.

"We are thoughtful and try not to take knee-jerk positions," she said.

Joseph DeFilippis, a coordinator of the Queer Economic Justice Network in New York, said in November that NGLTF leaders were reluctant to oppose a U.S.-Iraq war because they might lose funding, just as the group did when its leaders opposed the Persian Gulf War in the early 1990s.

"But the Task Force has been willing to take other positions in the past that had financial ramifications," Jean said.

Other gay groups that oppose the war are the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, Pride at Work, and the Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer.

A handful of local and state level gay and transgender organizations have also announced opposition to war with Iraq, including Trans=Action in Georgia.

A coalition of gay activists in Chicago recently placed a full-page anti-war ad in gay newspapers there.

"A new U.S. war will indirectly kill people in our community here at home by diverting necessary funds away from already scaled-back social service programs," the ad said.

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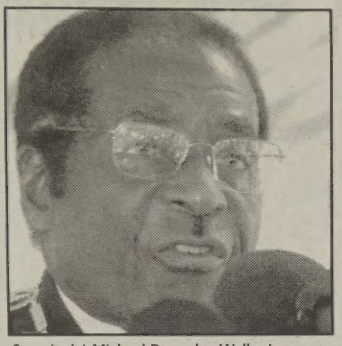
# international news

## U.K. rejects asylum bid of young, gay pianist



Gay pianist Michael Brownlee Walker's request for political asylum was rejected, leaving him concerned about fate under President **Robert Mugabe** if he is forced to return to his home. (Photo by AP)

LONDON — One of the most promising young pianists in Britain faces the threat of persecution after the U.K. refused his application for political asylum and said he should return to his native Zimbabwe, the Observer reported. Michael Brownlee Walker, 25, who is gay, won a place five years ago to study classical piano at the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. His family ran a large farm in south Zimbabwe, but last Easter the property was overrun by supporters of President Robert Mugabe. His parents and brother fled the country. Brownlee Walker believes that his surname alone is likely to ensure he is harassed and possibly detained if he returns to Zimbabwe. But Brownlee Walker said his sexual orientation feeds his greatest fears about his safety. Mugabe has denounced gays as "worse than dogs and pigs," and asked police to help "root the evil out."

### Canadian judge says taunts not anti-gay discrimination

VANCOUVER — The homophobic taunts repeatedly hurled at a North Vancouver high school student can't be linked to discrimination based on sexual orientation because the victim was not gay, a judge ruled, according to the Vancouver Sun. Supreme Court Justice Allan Stewart quashed a B.C. Human Rights Tribunal ruling that said North Vancouver School District discriminated against Azmi Jubran based on his perceived sexual orientation when it failed to stop schoolmates who tormented and assaulted him. Jubran told the tribunal during lengthy hearings in 2001 that he is not gay but was routinely called "faggot," "homo" and "gay" while attending Handsworth secondary from 1993 to 1998. Classmates acknowledged the harassment but said they never believed he was gay. Based on that, the judge declared the tribunal's ruling was "fatally flawed" because there had been no discrimination against "a person or class of persons" based on their sexual orientation.

### Australian teen first student there to pursue sex change

BRISBANE, Australia — A Brisbane boy is determined to become the first Australian school student to go through a sex change, the Brisbane Courier Mail reported. In what is believed to be a first in Australia, the student last year began going to school partially dressed as a woman. This year, he began a course of hormones that will stop facial hair growth and lead to the development of breasts. With the support of his parents, he adopted a female name and now leaves the house every morning looking like a woman. In two to three years, provided he passes the required mental testing, he hopes to undergo surgery to make the transition complete. The 17-year-old, who does not want to be identified, said he was a victim of the widespread ignorance and fear at school. "It's not like I have chosen this for myself. I have lived my whole life feeling that something is not right and all I want is to live a normal life," he said.

### Education activists want gay issues added to curriculum

VANCOUVER — The men who went to Canada's highest court to bring books about same-sex families into kindergartens are now seeking an order that would compel all teachers to deliver positive messages about homosexuality throughout the curriculum, the Vancouver Sun reported. Murray Warren and his partner Peter Cook are asking the British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal to force the education ministry to add sexual orientation and gender identity to a list of issues — called "cross-curricular interests" — that was drawn up in the mid-1990s to encourage equal treatment of all students. They say the exclusion of those two items from the list amounts to discrimination against non-heterosexual students and their parents. Their omission discourages teachers from making education relevant for students who aren't heterosexual and from teaching heterosexual students about gay and transgendered issues, they argue. The tribunal scheduled a three-week public hearing in February to examine the complaint.

### Owner of Scottish gay health club plans to sue objectors

EDINBURGH, Scotland — The owner of a controversial gay sauna in Edinburgh will sue neighbors who initially objected to it, the Edinburgh News reported. Angry residents who lodged official objections now face a six-figure compensation claim after the development was finally given the go-ahead. A legal challenge from residents meant the men-only club in Broughton Market was forced to close last May after opening for only four days. A sheriff has threw the objections and the club's owners are preparing to sue protesters for loss of earnings. But the move was condemned by some local officials, who said residents must be free to object to developments without fear of being sued. Neighbors said they feared the sauna would be used as a gay brothel.

**From staff and wire reports**

national news

# Southern Baptists oppose Nashville gay rights law

## Metro Council could vote next week on bias ban that may include religious exemption

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The nation's largest Protestant denomination and the country's most anti-gay church spoke out last week against a proposed ordinance to add sexual orientation to Nashville's non-discrimination law.

The Metropolitan Council of Nashville is scheduled to vote Jan. 21 on a measure that would ban anti-gay bias in employment and housing, although an effort to exempt religious groups from the policy could delay the vote, according to Council member Chris Ferrell, one of the bill's lead sponsors.

While support from gay citizens for the bill has been "phenomenal," Ferrell said, "there is definitely some outspoken opposition that makes it more challenging, and it makes some of my colleagues very nervous."

The anti-bias measure must be passed in three readings before the Metro Council, the 40-member legislative body for the consolidated government of Nashville and Davidson County. The proposal received a successful first reading Dec. 3, and passed its Dec. 17 second reading by a vote of 26-2, Ferrell said.

But opponents of the bill have since come out in force. The Southern Baptist Convention told the Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau on Jan. 8 that the group would consider moving its 2005 national gathering from Nashville if the measure passed.

Rev. Fred Phelps, pastor of Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., also announced plans to picket the "fag-infested" Metropolitan Council during the vote.

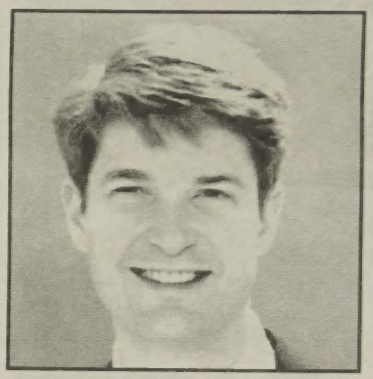
"We have, in past years, convened the Southern Baptist Convention in cities where every lifestyle is considered 'normal,'" Jack Wilkerson, SBC Executive Committee vice president for business and finance, said in a letter to the Nashville visitor's bureau.

"But our constituents are telling us today that they do not want to meet in cities where our meeting has to constantly deal with these issues," he said.

SBC leaders could not be reached for comment by press time. Officials with the visitor's bureau also did not respond to questions by press time.

The Southern Baptist Convention cites 15 million members worldwide. The conservative denomination believes that homosexuality "is not a valid alternative lifestyle" and "the Bible condemns it as sin," according to an official position statement on sexuality.

SBC officials told the Baptist Press they are also concerned about having to hire gays at its headquarters in Nashville.



Nashville council member **Chris Ferrell** said he will amend his proposed sexual orientation anti-discrimination law to exempt religious groups, but officials with the Southern Baptist Convention said they will still oppose the measure.

Ferrell describes himself as a Southern Baptist, but said he disagrees with the denomination's stand on homosexuality.

"It's not a choice. It's the way people are made, and my own theology is that God would be cruel to make people a certain way, then said it is sinful," he said. "I don't believe God would do that, so I believe what God makes is good."

Still, Ferrell said he will introduce an amendment to the non-discrimination law at the Jan. 21 council meeting to exempt religious groups not just from the sexual orientation policy, but from the metro area's human relations ordinance, including bans on race and gender discrimination.

"If we are willing to uphold principles of religious freedom over principles of anti-discrimination, we should not create two separate categories of protected people," he said.

Equality Tennessee, part of an informal coalition of gay groups lobbying for the bill, won't object to excluding religious groups, according to Randy Cox, board chair.

"I think that will help pass this version, and this is also a first step to trying in the future to have something more inclusive and broader," Cox said.

The legislation could see a final vote next week, Ferrell said. But if Ferrell must introduce the exemption as a separate bill, the two measures may not receive a final vote until February, he said.

To pass, the ordinance must receive 21 votes, a majority of the 40 council members. Mayor Bill Purcell would have the option to veto the bill, and it would take 27 votes to override a veto.

*Ava Philson, spokesperson for Purcell, said the mayor would not comment on the legislation because he "hasn't received it" in final form.*

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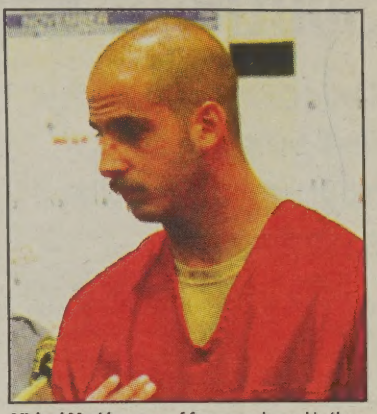
# police beat

## Calif. judge grants bail to alleged killer of transgendered teen

FREMONT, Calif. — A judge granted bail Jan. 7 for Michael Magidson, one of four men charged in the killing of transgendered teen Gwen Araujo, according to the Argus. Magidson, 22, was allegedly the first to punch Araujo during an Oct. 3 party and was seen with his hands around the victim's neck, said Connie Campbell, deputy district attorney. Magidson admitted to detectives that he tied a rope around Araujo's neck, she said. Magidson and three other men pleaded innocent. The accused could face 25 years to life in prison if convicted of first-degree murder, which is not a capital offense. In California, judges must consider bail in non-capital cases. The judge said there is no evidence the defendant is a threat to harm others. Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, disagreed with the ruling. "I'm not happy," Guerrero said. "I'm in shock."



**Michael Magidson**, one of four men charged in the killing of a transgendered teen, may soon be released from jail on bail, outraging the victim's family. (Photo by D. Ross Cameron/AP)

### Two men charged with selling drugs in gay personals on San Fran Web site

SAN FRANCISCO — Two men suspected of dealing drugs through gay Internet personal ads were arrested after selling crystal methamphetamine to undercover officers, police told the San Francisco Examiner. Buck Cody Davis and Adolf Mauriscio were booked on multiple felony charges after police responded to an ad placed on Craigslist.com offering "Tina," a code word for methamphetamine. San Francisco Police Vice Inspector John Keane said Davis, 25, and Mauriscio, 32, rented a hotel room and used a laptop to post the messages. "These two guys are small-time players and what we call idiots," he said. Investigators recovered an ounce of drugs, bottles of the steroid gamma hydroxybutyrate, scales, a computer and $1,600 in cash from the hotel room. Police recently voiced concern about illegal activity through the popular online listings service, which receives up to six million hits a day.

### Suspect arrested in killing of Canadian gay man

MONTREAL, Canada — A man was arrested Jan. 9 in the fatal beating of a gay man, according to the Montreal Gazette. Sébastien Roy, 24, is considered "a person of interest" in the death of Christopher Raynsford, 34, according to police. Raynsford's bludgeoned body was discovered Dec. 4 in his apartment. He had not shown up for work since Nov. 21. Roy has a criminal record for robbery and was the last person seen with the victim, police said. No charges have been filed, and Roy is currently only wanted for questioning, said Ottawa police Staff Sgt. David Lengacher. "He's a person we have to deal with in regard to our investigation," Lengacher said. "As to where it goes from here, it's too early to say." He said that the Raynsford death is not linked to a string of robberies of area gay men through a telephone dating service.

### Calif. judge sends two to trial in suspected bias attacks

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — A judge ordered two men accused of separate baseball bat attacks on a gay man and a transgender person to stand trial on assault charges carrying hate crime enhancements, according to the Associated Press. Hate crime allegations were added to the charges after prosecutors concluded that Ever Rivera, 20, and Selvin Campos, 19, thought their alleged victims were gay. A gay man testified that he was struck Oct. 13 in the head with a bat by a pair of assailants he identified in court as Rivera and Campos. Shortly after that attack, a 19-year-old transgender person told police that anti-gay slurs were hurled during another baseball bat attack. The judge on Jan. 10 also ordered Rivera to stand trial on separate charges stemming from an alleged Oct. 9 attack on another transgender person. Prosecutors said these cases are not related to several other attacks on gays last fall in the gay-popular area. Rivera remains jailed in lieu of $185,000 bail, and Campos remains behind bars in lieu of $135,000.

### Cincinnati closes year with suspected anti-gay homicide

Cincinnati — The city's final homicide victim of 2002 was a gay man, according to the Gay People's Chronicle. Gregory Beauchamp, a 21-year old black gay male, was shot about 9 p.m. New Year's Eve as he and friends walked to a club to celebrate. A blue Cadillac pulled up alongside the group, and four or five men started yelling anti-gay epithets, according to the survivors of the attack. The incident has been reported as a hate crime for statistical purposes, but is being investigated simply as a homicide because neither the city or state include sexual orientation in hate crime laws, police officials said.

Authorities are examining a car matching the description of the one driven in the attack. It was burned with a gas can in the back seat, according to police. Police are on the lookout for at least four suspects and have made no arrests in the case.

**From staff and wire reports**

national news

# Military gays won't use sexual orientation as 'excuse'

**WAR,** continued from **Page 11**

on grounds of homosexuality at the conclusion of the war.

Military officials changed the policy during the U.S. military action in Afghanistan following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Similar to the Stop-Loss orders issued during the Afghanistan operation, the Marines' new order includes language excluding from the order all discharges related to "involuntary administration separations" from the military.

In addition to DADT discharges, the category includes other types of discharges such as those related to illegal drug use and minor criminal offenses that don't rise to the level of a court martial.

A DOD spokesperson did not return a call seeking comment by press time.

## Serving with mixed emotions

As gay groups take sides in the debate over war with Iraq and the military and advocacy organizations argue the merits of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," gay service members often feel caught in the middle.

Sandra, the Marine Reserves member, said she spent the two weeks between being called up and reporting for duty debating the war with her gay friends.

"I don't think any of us know exactly what is going on," she said. "I hear my friends say that President Bush is jumping to conclusions and war should be a last resort, not the first one, but then I go to work [in the Marines] and the guys say this has been going on for a long time, and we need to take care of it," she said.

"I don't think any of us know the truth, but I don't agree with killing people," she said.

While that might seem an odd position for someone who voluntarily enlisted in the military, Sandra — like many service members — signed up at a young age, without much thought about the possible implications.

"I was 17 years old, and I thought it would be cool, give me a chance to meet a lot of people, build my self esteem — all that great stuff," she said. "People told me that it was serious, that if they call you up, you have to go, but I was like, 'Yeah, whatever.' It didn't sink in."

Sandra signed up for eight years in the Reserves. For almost four years, her commitment has meant attending drills once a month and for two weeks each summer.

But by press time, Sandra will be somewhere in the Middle East, one of more than 56,000 Reserve and National Guard members that the Department of Defense says are currently serving on active duty.

Some of her friends urged Sandra to disclose her sexual orientation in order to avoid going, but she said she didn't consider seeking discharge under the policy.

"I don't believe in using my orientation as an excuse," she said.

The president of the gay service member's group said he would not take advantage of that loophole, either.

As the U.S. military mobilizes for a possible war with Iraq, gay service members say they face an added burden of hiding their identities and trying to stay in contact with their partners. (Photo by AP)

"Never have I considered it, though many I know have," he said. "Perhaps it's my own sense of pride, but I feel, as many in my organization do, that we joined the military for a reason, to improve our way of life as well as that of others."

While Sandra and the GLSME members refuse to take advantage of DADT to get out of service, military leaders sometimes refuse to enforce it.

"All of us have heterosexual friends and coworkers [in the military] who know that we are gay, and they do not care in the slightest," GLSME wrote in its letter to Congress.

Sandra faced a situation early in her military career when she could have been discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," but her own commanders ignored the policy.

She and her girlfriend at the time both enlisted, but the girlfriend when to boot camp first. "One day she left her journal out in the squad bay, and they took it because it was 'gear adrift,'" Sandra said. "Her senior drill instructor read it, and I was in it."

Sandra's girlfriend finished boot camp, but came back to visit on "Family Day" while Sandra was undergoing basic training.

"One of her old drill instructors was there, recognized her, and put two and two togethe," she said.

"My senior drill instructor then pulled me into a closet where we kept toilet paper and stuff, and confronted me. ... Then they just told me I had to be really careful," Sandra said. "That's all they did, but I was scared shitless."

The journal entry would have been grounds for discharge under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," according to Ralls, from Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

"It's logical that commanders want to retain the most talented, qualified people they can, and this sounds like a commander who decided this person was valuable and wanted to retain her," he said.

Lou Chibbaro Jr. contributed to this story.

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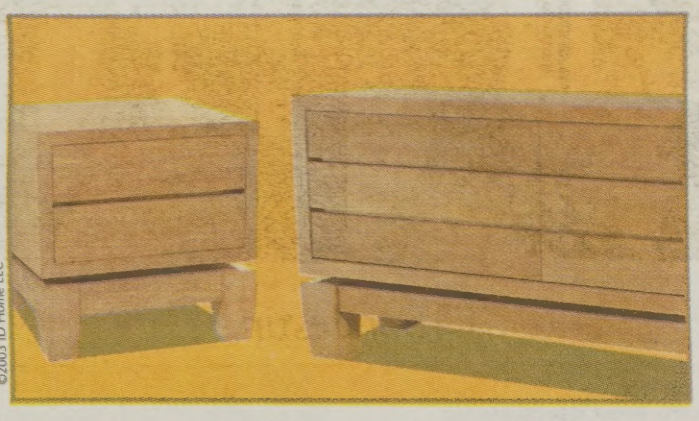
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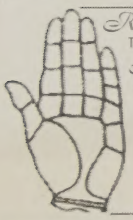

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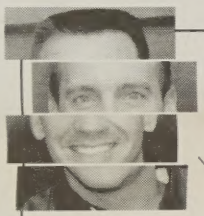

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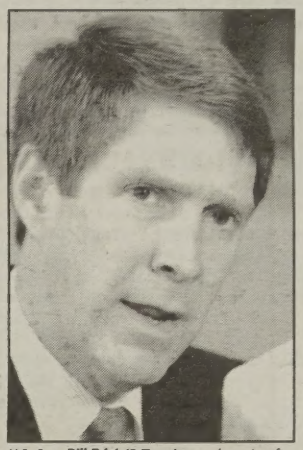
turn to page 17

# medical report

## U.S. disease experts urge China to bolster fight against AIDS

BEIJING — Visiting U.S. AIDS experts on Monday urged immediate action by China to prevent further spread of the disease, while Chinese health officials said the number of cases and deaths throughout the country rose over the past year, according to the Associated Press. "The AIDS epidemic is still very serious in China," said Qi Xiaoqiu, director general of the Disease Control Department in the Health Ministry. Qi was among 120 participants at a one-day seminar aimed at increasing cooperation between China and the U.S. in the fight against HIV/AIDS. U.S. Sen. William Frist (R-Tenn.), a heart and lung transplant surgeon, was honorary head of the American delegation, which also included representatives from several federal health agencies in the U.S. The Chinese government says 1 million people carry the AIDS virus, but outside experts warn the number is higher and could reach 10 million by the end of the decade. "We have much work to do in working together to find ways of preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS," said Bates Gill, an Asia expert with the Center for Strategic & International Studies, based in Washington, D.C. "We would like to urge Chinese leaders to act pre-emptively now to contain the pandemic and avoid future high costs — socially and economically."



U.S. Sen. **Bill Frist** (R-Tenn.), an advocate of increasing the U.S. effort in battling the global AIDS epidemic, is honorary head of an American delegation meeting this week with Chinese health officials about the disease. (Photo by AP)

### $8 million federal grant to bolster microbicide research

PITTSBURGH — The University of Pittsburgh was awarded nearly $8 million from the National Institutes of Health to research a potential barrier to HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, according to the Associated Press. "Every 10 years, someone reports that there will be a vaccine against AIDS within the next 10 years," said Sharon Hillier, principal investigator and professor of reproductive sciences, molecular genetics and biochemistry at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. "We hope to have an effective microbicide that can protect women against HIV in the next seven to eight years." The research, which will be done at UPMC and its Magee-Womens Research Institute, focuses on UC781, a chemical substance capable of killing microorganisms that was discovered by Michael Parniak, professor of medicine in UPMC's division of infectious diseases. UC781 renders the HIV virus incapable of infecting cells. Investigators will study safety and effectiveness of UC781 for humans.

### HIV/AIDS cases rise to new heights in Mass., report shows

BOSTON — The number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachussets reached the highest level in state history, according to a new report by the Department of Health. Some 13,780 people have AIDS or the virus that causes it, up 6 percent from last year. The rise can be partly attributed to better collection of AIDS data, but also indicates the rate of infection hasn't slowed, Dr. Jean Maguire, director of the health department's HIV/AIDS bureau, told the Associated Press. "Interrupting that steady state of infection is going to require more aggressive and supportive efforts at getting people tested and into care," she said. Gay sex remains the primary mode of HIV infection among men, followed by intravenous drug use, the statistics showed.

### City Council in Miss. considers facility for people with HIV

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — The Hattiesburg City Council will decide this month whether to allow a group home for people with HIV/AIDS to locate here, according to the Associated Press. The proposed 14-bed home would be the first in Hattiesburg and the third in the state, officials said. The Hattiesburg AIDS Services Coalition would operate the home as a temporary residence for self-sustaining individuals, said Bruce Van Nostrand, the nonprofit organization's president. "The must live under the rules that we set forth," he said. "It is also not, nor ever will be, a flophouse." The city planning commission approved the proposed home earlier this month. Van Nostrand is seeking about $112,000 in grants to buy the house where he wants to locate.

### Cases among Hispanic women drive up HIV in Penn.

PHILADELPHIA — The HIV/AIDS infection rate among Hispanic women in Pennsylvania is nearly twice the national average, in part because the women often feel pressured by their husbands to have unprotected sex, according to a study released Monday. Research by the Philadelphia AIDS Consortium and other groups attributed the high percentage to a different set of family values as well as cultural attitudes within the state's Hispanic community. The study was based on surveys sent out to 57 community organizations statewide, asking questions about AIDS, sexual behavior and drug use. "Bottom-line, what we find is, it's a question of values," Lawrence J. Hochendoner, executive director of the Philadelphia AIDS Consortium, told the Associated Press. "We basically found that the issues are ones of self-esteem and empowerment."

**From staff and wire reports**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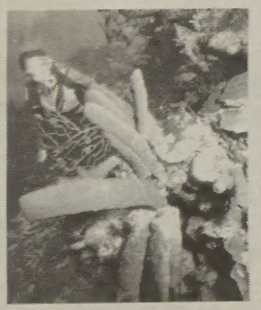

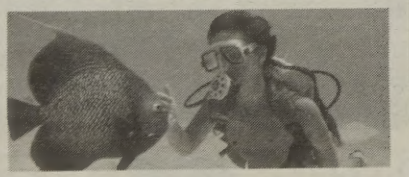

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## religion news

### Gay state senator in N.Y. equates Catholic bishop with lobbyists

ALBANY, N.Y. — Calling Roman Catholic clergy lobbyists, State Sen. Thomas Duane said the Senate should not have allowed Albany's Roman Catholic bishop, Howard Hubbard, to remain in the chamber after delivering the opening prayer of the 2003 session. Duane, a gay Democrat and a Catholic, objected to Hubbard remaining for 20 minutes. Hubbard has offered a prayer at the opening day of the Senate for over a decade. Though last week's opening session was largely ceremonial, the Albany Times-Union reported that Duane objected because "lobbyists should not be on the floor of the Senate. This may give the impression of exerting undue influence on Senate members." Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno dismissed Duane's complaint. Duane complained that "Catholics have a more powerful lobby force than any of the other denominations." Catholic Conference Executive Director Richard Barnes called the complaint "an expression of anti-Catholic intolerance."

New York state Sen. **Tom Duane**, a gay Democrat, was criticized after objecting to a Catholic priest remaining in the legislative chamber after delivering a prayer last week.

### Bishop criticized for oversight of priest now in sex scandal

BOSTON — A bishop acknowledged writing a letter to California church officials vouching for a gay priest despite a complaint that the priest spoke graphically about sex, according to the Associated Press. Bishop Robert J. Banks, now bishop of Green Bay, Wis., is accused of mishandling sexual abuse allegations against Rev. Paul Shanley when he wrote the letter in 1990 and faces civil lawsuits over the matter. In a court deposition, Banks was asked why, knowing about two complaints about Shanley's conduct, he did not send Shanley for a psychiatric evaluation. "As far as I was concerned, he talked too freely about sex. That was the problem.," Banks said of Shanley. Authorities have charged Shanley, at the center of the Catholic Church's sex abuse crisis, with multiple counts of child rape. The retired priest has criticized the church for its stand on homosexuality and endorsed sex between men and boys.

### Ala. Episcopal leader joins others in opposing same-sex unions

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Four prominent theologians, including the pastor of Birmingham's largest Episcopal church, have distributed a letter opposing rituals for same-sex unions, an issue that Episcopalians may vote on this year, according to the Birmingham News. "We would recognize such an exceptional action as being unconstitutional," Rev. Paul Zahl said of the idea of Episcopalians adopting same-sex union rituals. "It would involve disagreeing fundamentally with the vast majority of Anglican Christians worldwide." But the document did devote a long passage to persuading Episcopalians to remain in the church, even if such rituals are adopted. The Episcopal Church General Convention, a governing body that meets every three years, will likely consider the issue when it convenes in July. R.R. Reno of Creighton University, Christopher Seitz of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and retired Yale Divinity Dean Philip Turner also signed the letter, sent to every delegate to the General Convention as well as to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

### Task force for N.H. bishop to report soon on misconduct policies

MANCHESTER, N.H — A task force evaluating the sexual misconduct policy of the Roman Catholic Diocese says changes are needed to ensure the policy is enforced and that accusations are dealt with openly. "There shouldn't be any more secrets," Donna Sytek, the task force chair, told the Associated Press. "We want people to know if they send their child to a Catholic church, the child will be in a safe environment." Bishop John B. McCormack appointed the task force to compare the diocese's existing policy with the one adopted by the nation's bishops. The task force will also address the church's stance on gay issues. As part of a settlement with the state attorney general's office, McCormack admitted the church failed to protect children from sexual abuse by priests.

### Clergy in Ill. city split over possible gay measure

PEORIA, Ill. — A proposed nondiscrimination ordinance is splitting religious leaders as the City Council prepares to consider the measure in March, the Journal Star reported. "This is just one way of demonstrating that we are a community that cares about its citizens," said Rev. David Koehler, a United Church of Christ minister and former city council member. "They already have rights," countered Rev. Lyall Sutton, a Baptist. "We don't have to keep increasing rights for people based on choice rather than on things they can't control, like age, gender and race." Rev. Cal Rychener, of Community Church, said the Bible defines gay behavior as immoral and gay can change. Some Christian leaders feared that the ordinance would make it illegal for a religious organization to discriminate in its hiring on the basis of sexual orientation.

**From staff and wire reports**

# Life outside the perimeter

## Lambda Group provides social outlet and helps elderly gays

By CHRISTOPHER SEELY

Finding gay activities in suburban Atlanta to fill a weekend social calendar is not as daunting as it might seem. Gay bars outside the perimeter are a rarity, but several hundred gay men thrive without them, meeting regularly for dinners and drinks in what some might consider no gay man's land.

"We just wanted to provide a venue where people would socialize other than in the bars ... to develop more sincere friendships," said Dave Cozzoinger, co-founder of the Lambda Online & Dining Out Group.

Dave shares his last name with his partner Bob, and the two started the group about a year ago. The group turned to the Internet three months ago with a presence on Yahoo!Groups, Dave Cozzoinger said.

With approximately 60 members, Lambda meets the third Sunday of each month for food and fun — often in conjunction with several other gay suburban groups including Gwinnett Guys, Northern Triangle and the 7:10 Gwinnett Dinner Club, he said.

Cozzoinger estimates that more than half of his group's members actively participate in other suburban groups, and they have worked together on community service projects.

As part of the effort to save the CHRIS Rainbow Home, a shelter for homeless gay youth, Lambda worked alongside the other suburban groups to raise money and support.

"We solicited our members and other groups' members, and a fellow that is a member of Gwinnett Guys had a holiday party and raised almost $6,000," Cozzoinger said.

Lambda also raised $600 at a November garage sale for AID Gwinnett — a figure that would have been higher had it not rained, Cozzoinger said.

Homebodies **Bob** and **Dave Cozzoinger** started a suburban group for gay men that dines out and holds potluck dinners as an alternative to Midtown's bar scene. (Photo by R.O. Youngblood)

The Cozzoingers are not strangers to initiating groups or having their lives thrust into the public domain.

They share a 27-year relationship sanctified by Rev. Troy Perry in 1993 and publicized by the Concerned Women of America, a religious conservative group with their sights set on all levels of public policy.

"We were poster children for the Concerned Women of America," Cozzoinger said. "They used a picture taken at the March on Washington at our commitment ceremony in front of the IRS for the solicitation of funds for their group."

The ad read, "Is this what marriage will mean in America?" Cozzoinger said.

Through their years together, the Cozzoingers have resided in Chicago, where they were introduced to each other by a mutual friend, and San Diego before moving to Atlanta a few years ago.

As their acquaintances have matured in recent years, the Cozzoingers realized the need for a program to check up on elderly gay men living alone after a harrowing experience with a "loner" friend.

"A close gay personal friend that had been quite ill for some time and taking many meds, as he called them, depended on me to take him on ... errands," Cozzoinger said. "I routinely called him, and when he didn't return my calls for several days, I went to his condo project and ... found him passed out in the bathroom."

Cozzoinger's account echoes another more recent occurrence in Atlanta that happened to an elderly gay couple in the Cozzoingers' neighborhood, Bill Weaver and Doug Johnson.

"He fell down the steps inside the damn house," Weaver said of Johnson, who is still recovering from a broken wrist and fractured vertebrate.

"I came home and there he was in a heap at the bottom of the stairs," he said.

Had Weaver not been living with Johnson, Johnson could have been stuck for days, Cozzoinger said.

"It is so important for men who live alone to communicate with others who live alone so those things that we've discovered that happened don't happen to [the other gay men living alone]," he said.

Cozzoinger attempted to start a similar group in San Diego to no avail, and response for the group's formation in Atlanta has been "minimal" so far, he said.

After attempts to generate interest in a formal Buddy Program through the Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center were unsuccessful, Cozzoinger is now trying to get an informal program started by word-of-mouth and through Lambda, he said.

Weaver concurred with Cozzoinger's informal approach.

"If it gets too damn organized, it could deteriorate into a bureaucracy," he said.

### MORE INFO

**Lambda Dining Out Group**
Jan. 19, 1 p.m.
Olde Mill Steakhouse
2089 Savoy Drive
Chamblee, GA
RSVP to Bob & Dave Cozzoinger
LambdaGroup@msn.com
770-455-0900
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LambdaGroup

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## notes

The **Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus** hosts Dallas counterparts the Turtle Creek Chorale in the joint concert 'Brothers in Song' at the Ferst Center for the Arts on Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. 349 Ferst Dr. NW, 404-894-9600 or www.tickets.com

### SATURDAY JAN. 18

**DOUBLE HOOKS:** Charis Circle hosts 'visionary scholar' **bell hooks** to read and autograph two of her children's books at 11 a.m. at the Bass Recreation Center (326 Moreland Ave.). At 7:30 p.m., the First Existentialist Congregation (470 Candler Park Drive) hosts hooks' talk on self-esteem for blacks. 404-524-0304 or www.chariscircle.org

**GAY BROTHER:** Hands on Atlanta sponsors the local debut of the film **'Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin,'** about Martin Luther King Jr.'s gay advisor, at 4 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, 450 Auburn Ave. 404-331-5190.

### MONDAY JAN. 20

**MLK MARCH:** Gays gather before the annual King Day march for the 10 a.m. **Bayard Rustin Community Brunch** at Atlanta's Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500. Gays will then gather at 12:30 p.m. at the corner of Peachtree and Ellis Streets to march together.

### TUESDAY JAN. 21

**SIX SPEAKS:** Atlanta City Council member Anne Fauver hosts a **District 6 Town Hall Meeting** with guests Mayor Shirley Franklin and Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Inman Middle School, 774 Virginia Ave. 404-330-6049. www.ci.atlanta.ga.us/citycoul/Ccinfo.htm

### WEDNESDAY JAN. 22

**KID POWER:** The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra presents a **Rhythm Workshop for YouthPride** members from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Then on Jan. 24, YouthPride hosts a movie night and legal forum with 'Sex, Lawyers, and Videotape' at 6 p.m. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620, www.youthpride.org

### FRIDAY JAN. 24

**GRAPE LADIES:** ALCI hosts an unusual happy hour from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. with **'Exercise & Wine Tasting,'** which focuses on ways to keep bodies moving in the new year. Wine follows a workout and informational session. 404-688-2524, www.alci.org

# community calendar

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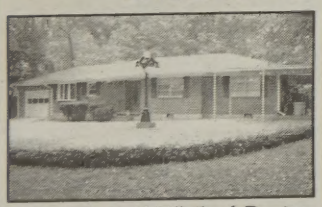
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## ATHENS

### SATURDAY JAN. 18

**GLBT TEEN GROUP.** 2 pm. Presbyterian student center. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net

### MONDAY JAN. 20

**LAMBDA ALLIANCE.** 7 pm. UGA's gay student organization. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. 706-583-8297 or www.uga.edu/lambda

## ATLANTA

### SATURDAY JAN. 18

**ATLANTA TEAM TENNIS ASSOCIATION OPEN PLAY.** 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

**BAYARD RUSTIN FILM.** 4 pm. "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin." Freedom Hall in MLK Center, 450 Auburn Ave. NE. 404-331-5190 or handsonatlanta.com

**MIDTOWN ARTISTS MARKET.** 10 am.-3 pm. Midtown Promenade, 931 Monroe Dr. 770-913-3978

**CHARIS CIRCLE.** 11 am. Children's book by bell hooks read by bell hooks at Bass Recreation Center, 326 Moreland. 404-524-0304 or www.chariscircle.org

**CHESHIRE BRIDGE ARTISTS MARKET.** 10 am.-6 pm. Art 101, 1960 Cheshire Bridge Rd. 404-874-4224

**FIRST EXISTENTIALIST.** 7:30 pm. "Rock my Soul: Black People and Self-Esteem," with author bell hooks. 470 Candler Park Dr. 404-524-0304 or chariscircle.org

**FIRST MCC.** 7 pm. 31st Anniversary Dinner-Dance. 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143

**FRONT RUNNERS.** Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

**GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.** 8 pm. Doctors and medical students meet for socializing, support and service. 404-607-0817 or 404-231-2251

**GEORGIA FIELD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S LEAGUE.** 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

**HOTLANTA BASKETBALL.** Men at 11:30 am. Women at 2 pm. New association, all skill levels welcome. Atlbasketball@aol.com

**LES AMIES.** Social club for African-American lesbians over 50. 404-351-3468

### SUNDAY JAN. 19

**ATLANTA FEMINIST WOMEN'S CHORUS.** 3:45 rehearsal. Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. 770-438-5823 or AFWChorus@yahoo.com

**ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT.** 11 am. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

**BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP.** 4 pm. Coming out support group. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard Ave. Decatur, 404-370-0920

**BLACK RAINBOW.** 6:30-8 pm. Social, support group for young black, gay and bisexual men. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard, Decatur. 404-378-6620

**COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA.** 2 pm. Partner dance lessons in salsa, swing, waltz, and more. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. $10. 404-876-3950

**FIRST MCC.** 21st anniversary worship celebration. 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143

**GAIA COLLECTIVE.** 6 pm. Younger and older women learn from each other. Bring your favorite dish. Topics vary with month. Charis Books, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304

**LAMBDA BRUNCH.** 1 pm. Olde Mill Steakhouse, 2809 Savoy Dr. Chamblee. 770-455-0900 or LambdaGroup@msn.com

**LAMBDA DINING OUT GROUP.** North suburban group. 770-457-5264 or LambdaGroup@msn.com

**MOUNTAIN FAMILY NETWORK.** Dinners & potlucks for gays who live or weekend in the North GA mountains. 706-864-3229

**PFLAG ATLANTA.** 2:30 pm. 770-662-6475

MY BROTHAZ KEEPER. 6:30 pm. Discussion group for gay, bisexual and questioning men of African heritage, 25-. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 5th floor. 404-978-1268, ext. 1945

**SISTAS AGING GRACEFULLY EVERYWHERE.** 4 pm. Discussion for black wimmin 40+. YouthPride Center, 302 E. Howard, Decatur. 404-370-0920

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION.** Healing touch and polarity therapies. 11:15-1pm. Call to sign up for free sessions. 404-257-1843

**To add a listing**, e-mail **calendar@sovo.com**, call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Christopher Seely. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

### MONDAY JAN. 20

**BAYARD RUSTIN COMMUNITY BREAKFAST.** 10 am. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill. 404-523-7500 or www.aglc.org

**FEMME WOMEN FOR BUTCH WOMEN.** 6:30 pm. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500 or www.aglc.org

GRRL GROUP. 6:30 – 8 p.m. Ages 13-17. YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

**HOTLANTA SQUARES.** High energy square dancing, no dress code, no pressure, no dance partner and no experience necessary. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 404—432-1809 or hotlantasquares@mindspring.com

**MLK DAY RALLY AND MARCH.** 1 pm. Intersection of Peachtree St. and Ellis St. www.mlkmarchaaar.org

### TUESDAY JAN. 21

**ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE.** Survivors support group every other week. Call for more info. 7 pm. 404-688-2524

**ATLANTA OUTWORLDERS.** 7 p.m. Interest group for gay science fiction fans meets at Miss Q's on Amsterdam Ave. for "Buffy" at 8 p.m. 770-451-8947. www.outworlders.org

**ATLANTA PLAYLAB.** 6-8 pm. Free workshop for playwrights. Peachtree Library, 1315 Peachtree. 404-872-8940

**ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT.** 8:30 pm. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

**BINATURE.** 7-9 pm. Bisexual discussion and support group. First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. Voluntary donation. 404-256-8992

**FRONT RUNNERS RUN/WALK.** 6:30 pm. Meet at the CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

**HOTLANTA SQUARES.** High energy square dancing, no dress code, no pressure, no dance partner and no experience necessary. Meet at First MCC Church of Atlanta, 1379 Tullie Road. 404—432-1809 or hotlantasquares@mindspring.com

**HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION.** 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

### WEDNESDAY JAN. 22

**ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE.** Bereavement Group, 7 pm. 404-688-2524

**FRONT RUNNERS.** 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

**GAY FATHERS OF ATLANTA.** 7:30 pm. All are welcome. W. Peachtree at North Ave. 404-342-6451

**RAINBOW HOME TEAS.** Continental breakfast, 7:45 am.-8:30 am. Afternoon tea, 5:45 pm.-6:30 pm. RSVP by Tuesday, 3 pm. 404-486-9034, x104

**SAFE HARBOR.** 7:30 p.m. Christian fellowship and bible study for gay men and lesbians. 770-717-9971 or404-622-8561

**SOUTHEAST ATLANTA GAYS AND LESBIANS.** 7:30 pm, Gravity Pub on Glenwood Ave. 404-614-0959

**TEEN GROUP.** Teen support group at YouthPride (ages 13-18), 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

**YOUNG ADULT GROUP.** Group for ages 18-24 at YouthPride, 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

**YOUTHPRIDE.** 5-6 pm. "Rhythm Workshop" with Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. 302 Howard Ave. 404-378-6620 or www.youthpride.org

### THURSDAY JAN. 23

**ATLANTA GAY MEN'S CHORUS.** Rehearsals 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Rd. Atlanta, GA 30329. 404-320-1030 or www.agmchorus.org

**ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT.** 8:30 p.m. Swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

**ATLANTA WOMEN'S RUGBY.** Practice 7-9 pm. Matches on Saturdays, no experience necessary. www.atlantaheatwrfc.com

**BOYTALK.** 6:30-8 pm. Discussion group for GBTQ youth 18-24. At YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620.

**CHARIS CIRCLE.** 7:30 pm. De-mystifying Learning Problems and AD/HD in Children and Adults. 404-524-0304 or www.chariscircle.org

**CLITERATI.** Grrls' spoken word open mic. 8 p.m. Tower II, Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-687-9807, Tankgrrl10@hotmail.com

**COME OUT DANCING, ATLANTA.** 7 pm. Partner dance lessons in salsa, swing, waltz, and more. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. $10. 404-876-3950

**DUNGEONS & DRAGONS.** 3E D&D weekly group meeting in downtown Atlanta. Open to all levels of gay and gay-friendly RPG players. ajones@mindspring.com

**GAY HOCKEY NIGHT.** 7:30 pm. Phillips Arena. Lizard Kings face off against Canucks after the Thrashers game. www.gayhockeyatlanta.com

**LGBT MOVIE GROUP.** Movie followed by discussion at nearby restaurant. 404-872-0726 or rambook@aol.com

**LONG TERM SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP.** 7:30-9 pm. Must pre-register. Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396, ext. 28

**GUYTALK.** 7 pm. For gay & bisexual men 18-24. The Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 6th Floor. 404-523-7500

**WOMYN'S GROUP.** Ages 18-24 at YouthPride. 6:30-8 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6620

### FRIDAY JAN. 24

**THE AGENDA** Midnight. Gay Television. People TV Cable Channel 24. www.herounit.com

**ATLANTA LESBIAN CANCER INITIATIVE.** 6-8 pm. Exercise & Wine Tasting. 1530 DeKalb Ave. Suite A. 404-688-2524 or www.alci.org

**ATLANTA FREEDOM MARCHING BAND.** 7 pm. First Metropolitan Community Church, 1379 Tullie Way. 404-622-0666

**ATLANTA RAINBOW TROUT.** 7:30 pm. Water polo/swim practice. Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. 404-412-7777, www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

**HOTLANTA VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION.** Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

**NORTHERN TRIANGLE.** 8 pm. Social group for GLBT people in the northern suburbs. TGIF Celebration in Roswell. northerntriangle@aol.com or www.Northerntriangle.com

**YOUTHPRIDE.** 6:30-10 pm. Sex, Lawyers, and Videotape. Ask legal questions to lawyers and watch "Philadelphia." 302 Howard Ave. 404-378-6620 or www.youthpride.org

## MACON

### FRIDAY JAN. 24

**CCAN Potluck Luncheons.** Noon. Bring a covered dish to share. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave.

## SAVANNAH

### SATURDAY JAN. 18

**LESBIAN POTLUCK.** First City Network. 912-236-2489

### SUNDAY JAN. 19

**FRIENDS & COMPANY.** 6 pm. AMF Victory Lanes. 912-354-0658

### MONDAY JAN. 20

**BOWLING LEAGUE.** 9 pm. For single lesbians and gay men. AmF Savannah Lanes, 115 Tibet Avenue. $10/week. Trey or Trish, 912-925-0320

### THURSDAY JAN. 23

**GAY YOUTH GROUP.** 7 pm. First City Network office, third floor. Gene, 800-484-1913, pin 5353

# occasions

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Black & White Men Together members Thomas B. on Jan. 20 and Willis B. on Jan 22.

## ANNIVERSARY

Happy anniversary to First Metropolitan Community Church, which celebrates 31 years in Atlanta with a series of events this weekend.

*Southern Voice publishes birthday wishes, anniversaries and other milestones in readers' lives free of charge. E-mail your special occasions to occasions@sovo.com. Call 404-876-1819, ext. 19. Fax: 404-876-2709. Write: Southern Voice/Occasions, 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA 30306. You must include a telephone number. Occasions are verified by telephone. Occasions may include photographs. Please include a SASE if you want your photograph returned, or send photographs by e-mail.*

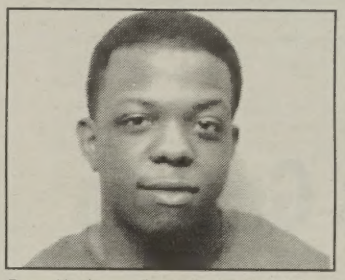
# local news

## Morehouse student pleads not guilty to hate crime

ATLANTA — Aaron Price, a 19-year-old former Morehouse College student, last week became the first person in Georgia to be officially charged with a hate crime motivated by sexual orientation. During an arraignment Jan. 9, Fulton County prosecutors served Price's attorney with notice that they will pursue hate crime charges in the case. Price, already charged with one count of aggravated battery and one count of aggravated assault in a Nov. 3 baseball-bat attack against a fellow student, now faces an "enhanced penalty" for allegedly selecting his victim because Price believed him to be gay, according to prosecutor Holly Hughes.

Gregory Love, a junior at Morehouse, told police he looked at Price in a common dormitory shower on Nov. 3 because Love wasn't wearing his glasses and thought Price was his roommate. Price then allegedly went to his room, got a baseball bat, returned to the shower and beat Love several times, causing internal bleeding, a fractured skull, two broken teeth and permanent scars, according to Hughes. Price "demonstrated his bias and prejudice before the physical attack" with comments that included "You're gay, you're gay, you're gay, faggot" and "I hate Morehouse College; I hate all of these fags," according to the state's notice of intent.

Price, making his first appearance in court since his Nov. 5 arrest, declined an interview through his father. J. Kevin Franks, Price's attorney, also declined comment. Price is now out of jail on a $10,000 bond. The judge set March 27 as a final plea date and April 28 as a tentative trial date.



Former Morehouse college sophomore **Aaron Price** entered a plea of not guilty this week to charges stemming from the Nov. 3 assault of a fellow student.

If a jury decides that someone convicted of a felony is also guilty of a hate crime, the judge must increase the sentence by five years in jail, up to the maximum allowed for the underlying offense. The person must also serve at least 90 percent of the sentence before becoming eligible for parole.

**Jennifer J. Smith**

### DeKalb schools consider sexual orientation policy

DECATUR — Responding to a request last month by DeKalb County School Board members Lynn Cherry-Grant and BeBe Joyner, DeKalb County school officials announced Jan. 14 they were considering adding the phrase "sexual orientation" to the school's existing non-discrimination policy, according to a spokesperson. The policy change would "provide for the protection of students from harassment and discrimination by district employees which includes harassment based on sexual orientation," according to a proposal submitted by Dr. Jim Mullins, director of governmental relations and special relations for DeKalb schools. Submitted this week to the school board, the proposal is scheduled for a vote at the regular Feb. 10 board meeting, according to Spencer Ragsdale, a public information officer for DeKalb schools.

Gay DeKalb residents applauded the move. "It's wonderful," said Rep. Karla Drenner (D-Avondale Estates), Georgia's only openly gay state legislator. "All the work is starting to pay off." Drenner and others had lobbied DeKalb schools to implement a bias and harassment training program for faculty, staff and students after a Sept. 25 speech at Stone Mountain High School. Motivational speaker Danny Buggs, a 20-year school system employee, reportedly told students, "I hope there aren't any faggots in here." Buggs was later suspended for three days without pay, ordered to undergo sensitivity training and was transferred to the county's Management Information Systems offices.

**Jennifer J. Smith**

### Gay hockey night slated for Philips Arena

ATLANTA — A "significant portion" of tickets sold for the Atlanta Thrashers match against the Ottawa Senators on Jan. 23 will directly benefit Gay Hockey Atlanta, the city's gay hockey league, said Michael England, public relations director for the group. The money is earmarked for entering tournaments, among other expenses, England said. Last year's gay hockey night drew more than 500 people to sit in the same section to cheer on the Thrashers from behind a Gay Hockey Atlanta banner. Immediately following the Thrashers game, the guys of Gay Hockey Atlanta's team, the Lizard Kings, take the ice to face off against the Polardrome Canucks, another amateur hockey team. "Everyone should stay and watch us play," England said. "It's a little bit slower, and we fall down a lot more, but it is really fun to watch." Gay Hockey Atlanta will also raffle off door prizes, and tickets will be available at Philips Arena on the night of the game as well as pre-sales at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse and Brushstrokes.

**Christopher Seely**

**MORE INFO**
**DeKalb County Schools**
3770 North Decatur Road
Decatur, Georgia 30032
678-676-1200

**MORE INFO**
**Pride Night**
Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Phillips Arena
1 Phillips Dr.
www.gayhockeyatlanta.com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**PUBLISHER:** Window Media LLC

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editorial

# Big Buddy's Georgia

Gone are **King Roy** and **Zigzag Zell**, but what's left in the wake of Georgia's political transformation should **concern gays**.

**By MATTHEW A. HENNIE**

IF LAST NOVEMBER PROVIDED Georgia voters with "Jackass: The Election," the sequel opened Monday at the State Capitol. Big Buddy replaced King Roy, while the Big Guy stood by, flummoxed as Republicans tied his hands like schoolyard bullies.

Cooter and his clan flew planes overhead, providing a not so subtle reminder that they hold the key to electoral success in the land of Dixie.

Zigzag Zell just watched, cowboy boots on his feet and a smug smile on his face.

Georgia politics is in flux and gays could be the sacrificial lambs. Like the current state flag, we're not in vogue any more.

When Big Buddy proclaimed on Election Day last November that the state Republican party was "free at last" from second-party status for the first time in more than 130 years, gays — like other minorities — wondered nervously if they should trade their Subarus for pickups and try to pass.

The changing of the guard Monday made the question even more pressing.

In his 16-minute inaugural address, Big Buddy, as Gov. Sonny Perdue is known to his grandchildren, mentioned God six times and faith seven. He missed mentioning the other G-word, probably forgotten among the 13 times the crowd of thousands interrupted him with applause during an event with the feel of a church revival.

Religious references aren't new for politicians, and some even manage to include them in a way that doesn't remind gays within earshot that Scripture so often provides the fodder anti-gay zealots feed on in their damnations. But consider that Big Buddy started his inaugural day listening to Chicken King Truett Cathy, the conservative founder of Chick-fil-A who told the governor-to-be of his longing for the day the Bible becomes the official textbook in the state's public schools.

THAT AFTERNOON, BIG BUDDY TALKED of how "faith, family and freedom" will help build his "New Georgia." But those three F's might make the grade with gays.

Unfortunately, for now, gays have faith that once social conservatives in his party, led by the Chicken King and Babyface Ralph Reed, finish their assault on abortion rights, they'll turn their sights on gay families — putting in place an outright ban on adoptions and clamping down on the freedom judges currently enjoy to create loving families, regardless of sexual orientation.

The vagueness of state law currently allows judicial discretion when it comes to adoptions by gays; some judges — particularly ones in the social comfort found Inside the Perimeter — grant them. Big Buddy said on Monday he's "learned that a 'good family' is focused on protecting and preparing the next generation." Will Big Buddy protect our families?

For now, gays have faith that state Health Czar Jim Martin — one of the most gay-friendly appointments made by King Roy, the derisive term Republicans use for former Gov. Roy Barnes — will soon lose his head as Big Buddy continues revamping state government to purge it of Democrat appointees. The freedom gay families gained through a gay-friendly approach by the state Department of Human Resources may soon be a relic of the past given Big Buddy's tepid comments on Martin's future in a recent interview.

For now, gays have faith that Big Buddy's rewriting of King Roy's education reform will leave out families with gay students, providing more hurdles for those students in their quest to walk the halls without facing anti-gay slurs while teachers and administrators look the other way.

Sure to come up in the General Assembly this session is a recycled bill requiring parents to be notified if their child wants to join an extracurricular club. For some gay students seeking support from a gay-straight alliance, asking their parents to sign a permission slip is tantamount to signing their own death warrant.

For now, gays have faith that Big Buddy's talk of boosting economic freedom while addressing a tight state budget won't mean he'll support legalizing gay marriage, a bold move that would give gay families the same financial incentives enjoyed by their straight neighbors.

IN CREATING HIS "NEW GEORGIA," BIG Buddy welcomed his friends to the effort, "the businessperson, homemaker, schoolteacher, minister, farmer, computer whiz ... construction worker." He described the diversity of the 8.5 million members of the "Georgia family," but failed to embrace our vision of diversity.

Before dethroning King Roy last November, Big Buddy took his barbecue and grits road show to the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans, a group also long familiar with gazing adoringly at political power from the outside. He equivocated on gay adoption, failing to fully embrace gays into his "faith, family and freedom" approach to building his "New Georgia."

Big Buddy, though, at least reached out. King Roy's campaign trail never once crossed paths with gays. And despite the Big Guy's tepid efforts to stall anti-gay legislation in the state Senate last year, he quietly rode the whiff of discontent that swept Big Buddy into office and King Roy back to lawyering, leaving gays out in the cold. His campaign stayed low and quiet, so quiet that the Big Guy — Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor, usually never at a loss for words when a reporter is nearby — lost his voice when it came time to talk gay issues.

When the Big Guy did talk on Monday, giving the type of conciliatory inaugural address expected from the leader of a party on the receiving end of a political beatdown, he uttered the phrase that made Zigzag Zell a living legend: "kitchen table issues." But in years of dominating Georgia's political landscape, Zigzag Zell — current U.S. senator and former governor Zell Miller — never allowed gays to pull up a chair at his kitchen table.

He always forced us to sit at the children's table, lapping up any table scraps other gay-friendly legislators might throw toward us while he looked the other way.

Big Buddy, the Chicken King and Babyface won their round of schoolyard kick ball last November. To the victors go the spoils.

But it's now up to Log Cabin to come of age and prove that they are no longer standing outside looking in. Years of party dominance by King Roy and his court left them chirping from the cheap sheets; now it's time to assure that gays aren't soiled as Big Buddy enjoys his spoils.

On Tuesday, Big Buddy turned on his Southern charm and the self-effacing shtick that wooed so well during his campaign in a breakfast talk with business leaders: "Thank you all for your gracious welcome and warm wishes ... It almost feels like I'm the son you didn't expect to amount to much."

Gays have little faith that Big Buddy will treat us as anything more than the Black Sheep of his family, no hope that he will protect us from assaults on our freedoms. In building his "New Georgia," it's up to Big Buddy to show that he cares more than King Roy and Zigzag Zell.

@ **Matthew A. Hennie** is the editor of Southern Voice. He can be reached at **mhennie@sovo.com.**

# letters

## Choose heterosexuality

To the Editor:

David Bianco's construction of homosexuality as a "community we join" or as a "lifestyle we adopt" ("Homosexuality is a choice," op-ed, Jan. 10)) is one of the most bizarre and inaccurate analyses of homosexuality I've ever read, steeped as it is in fallacious post-modernist faddism.

Where does he think his homosexual desires came from? Who recruited him into the "lifestyle"? If he finds homosexuality so immoral that he has to be celibate, what is stopping him from reconstructing his own sexuality and sexual identity and becoming completely heterosexual?

After all, if it's just a construct of our imagination, is his imagination so impoverished he can't see himself a gayly straight? At least then he could lecture us from his Ivory Tower of successful straight moral superiority, rather than trying to blame his moral failings on a society that introduced him to homosexuality. And he could also get laid.

I'm gay because I'm gay. Not because someone told me that being gay is the new fad.

**LESZEK RZEPECKI**
**Atlanta**

## Nature vs. nurture doesn't matter

To the Editor:

I was irked to see the nature-vs-environment cause of homosexuality debated by non-experts in the Jan. 10 opinion pages of Southern Voice.

Who cares? It makes no difference what the cause(s) of homosexuality are. The important thing is that the condition exists, and gays deserve fair treatment without discrimination.

The only people who may have a vested interest in the cause are those who would oppose our equality and are looking for justification of their viewpoint. Those of us who are gay need only know that we are.

The nature vs. nurture debate about any human characteristic is a battle for extremists — the truth lies somewhere in the middle. Both genetic heritage and environmental influences play roles of varying proportion in each person.

Homosexuality is no different. The truth in each of us lies more to one side than the other in varying degrees, and to try and assign an absolute answer to all of us is an exercise in futility.

Sure, it would be interesting, at best, if science ever proves a definitive answer, but not only won't the answer ultimately matter, it just plain won't happen. Any "proof" will be debated endlessly by opponents from the other side. And we still won't be at the crux of the matter: equal treatment for everyone, regardless.

Your columnists, David Bianco and Paul Varnell, have no expertise beyond their own experiences, which not only makes their musings worthless, but proves sexuality is a complex phenomenon whose sources and makeup are different for every person.

**KEVIN WILCOX**
**Atlanta**

## Fairy tales and English cheese

To the Editor:

I commend Southern Voice on the really good job you do in informing the gay and lesbian community. I think your reporting on general news, politics, health and the arts is a highly valuable asset to the Atlanta community. Certainly in my 43 years of living here, no other publication has come close to your quality level.

At the same time, I am most disappointed in the lack of accuracy of some of your writers. The most recent incidents are in your Dec. 27 edition.

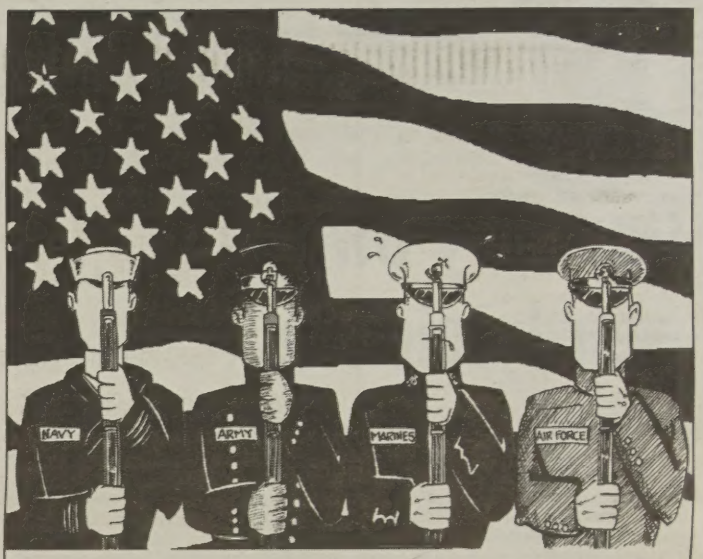
In the review of "Screened Out," ("Fairy Tales," books) there appears one of the most careless errors I have ever seen regarding American film. In referring to "Tea and Sympathy," your writer states that the actor "John Kerr is 'cured' of homosexuality by sleeping with his headmaster's wife — played by his real-life mom [Deborah Kerr]." John Kerr and Deborah Kerr were unrelated.

In the dining review of Tiburon, your writer describes their grits and shrimp dish as having grits "blended with Stilton [cheese] the tangy English cheddar." Stilton cheese is the English version of blue cheese!

I would like to see journalists writing columns to at least verify such widely known facts on the Internet.

As always I will be eagerly anticipating the next issue of Southern Voice.

**GEORGE H. ADAMS**
**Atlanta**




## your voice

Send the editor your letters (400 words maximum) or op-ed submissions (800 words maximum). Names may be withheld upon request, but submissions must include a name and phone number for verification.

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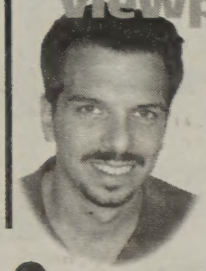
## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

THE AWFUL TRUTH
LET'S SEE HOW SPARROW'S BEDREST IS PROGRESSING.
©2002 BY ALISON BECHDEL
HEY, LOIS, JASMINE.
THANK GOD YOU'RE HOME. TAKE THIS FRICKIN' SKULLCAP TEA UP TO HER HIGHNESS. MY SHIFT IS OVER.
WHAT'S ALL THAT RACKET?
OH, JONAS IS VISITING HER. HE'S PROBABLY GOT MUSIC VIDEOS ON.
...FEELS LIKE I'M CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE... THAT'S WHEN I REALIZE...
...I'M NOT A GIRL... NOT YET A WOMAN...
BRAVA!
HEY, HEY, HEY! JONAS! COME ON, TURN THAT DOWN! I DON'T WANT SPARROW GETTING AGITATED.
STUART! WE'RE HAVING FUN.
JONAS... I FORGOT TO BRING SPARROW'S TEA UP. COULD YOU GO GET IT?
KAY.
YOU'RE THE ONE GETTING ME AGITATED!
SWEETIE, I JUST WANT YOU TO HAVE A QUIET ATMOSPHERE. I KNEW THAT TV WAS GONNA DISTURB THE FENG SHUI IN HERE.
BESIDES, I DON'T THINK IT'S GOOD TO ENCOURAGE JONAS IN HIS... ...HIS GENDER CONFUSION. YOU'RE NOT DOING HIM ANY FAVORS. IT'S A HARSH WORLD OUT THERE, AND EVENTUALLY HE'S GONNA HAVE TO FACE IT.
SHH. LATER.
HERE! CAN I STAY AND WATCH TV?
OF COURSE, JONAS.
BUT LET'S WATCH SOMETHING CALMING, OKAY?
SENATOR LOTT APOLOGIZED YESTERDAY ON THE BLACK ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION CHANNEL...
TRENT LOTT IMPLODING. NOW THAT'S FEELGOOD TV.
I DON'T GET IT. EVERYONE KNEW THIS GUY WAS A RACIST, RIGHT? SO WHY DIDN'T THEY GET RID OF HIM A LONG TIME AGO?
"...AND I JUST WANT ALL THE AFRICAN-AMERICANS OUT THERE TO KNOW HOW VERY JIGGY I AM WITH THE CONCEPT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION."
HEY, WHO'S IN THE MOOD FOR SOME BRITNEY?!
AND TOMORROW, CARDINAL LAW WILL BE APOLOGIZING ON NICKELODEON.

viewpoint MARC ACITO



**Forget gaydar**, it's all about rat hormones, brain clumps, inner ears, ring fingers, creatine levels, subcutaneous fat and penis length.

# Our very own weird science

I'M SO PROUD. RIGHT IN MY TOWN, researchers at Oregon Health Sciences University have discovered that the brains of gay male sheep differ slightly from those of straight male sheep. Although, when you consider how stupid sheep are, I'm surprised they could tell the difference.

But apparently it's not that difficult to tell which sheep are gay and which are not. For starters, straight sheep say "Baaah" while gay sheep say "Baaah-bra." When in doubt, researchers let the sheep pick out window treatments and then drew conclusions from there.

The whole brain thing doesn't surprise me at all. Back in 1992, a study showed that gay men have larger clumps of nerve cells connecting the left and right hemispheres of the brain, an area I like to call the "Garland Gland."

Some argue that increased communication between the hemispheres enhances creativity. This would explain why, in a 2001 study in which men measured their own penises, gay men reported longer lengths than straights (and proves you can't trust those AOL profiles either).

AT THE ROOT OF THESE STUDIES IS the question of whether homosexuality is a choice. Happily, there is growing evidence to confirm what most of us have instinctively known all our lives: that we're simply made this way.

A number of scientists seem to think we're gay because of our hormones. For instance, one study using rats points to a relationship between stress during pregnancy and irregular hormonal levels.

I've got to admit I don't really understand how that works. I know the way to make a hormone is to stick a finger up his bum, but how exactly does one go about stressing a rat? Take it to the DMV?

As for lesbians, a study done at the University of Texas in Austin showed that gay women may have more testosterone than straight women. Researchers came to this conclusion when they discovered that, like men, lesbians have weaker inner ear cells. Put another way, lesbians just don't hear as well, which goes a long way towards explaining why they can tolerate so much folk music.

A University of California study claims that lesbians also have "masculine" right hands, in which the ring finger is longer than the pointer finger. In a related story, lovers of long-fingered California lesbians reported a higher rate of sexual satisfaction.

Some of the most compelling evidence for biological causes, however, are the genetic studies. I read about one that proved gay men actually have less subcutaneous fat than straight men. Apparently we can fit into our designer jeans because of our designer genes.

And we also have lower creatine levels, which proves that gym rats don't take supplements for vanity's sake; we need this stuff like Whitney Houston needs a crack pipe and a sandwich.

An experiment conducted with fruit flies (yes, you read that right) showed that the introduction of a certain gene caused flies to exhibit homosexual behaviors. I'm guessing that means the lesbian flies would only land on organic produce while the gay ones cheerfully flitted from fruit to fruit.

THE STUDIES OF TWINS ARE PERHAPS the most intriguing. For instance, fraternal twins, carried in the same womb and reared in the same household, have a one-in-four chance of being gay, while identical twins have a one-in-two chance of being gay.

And if two gay twins leave Detroit at the same time, one heading to Provincetown at 60 miles per hour, the other to Key West at 75 miles per hour, one thing is certain: Both of them will get laid while on vacation.

Isn't science *cool*?

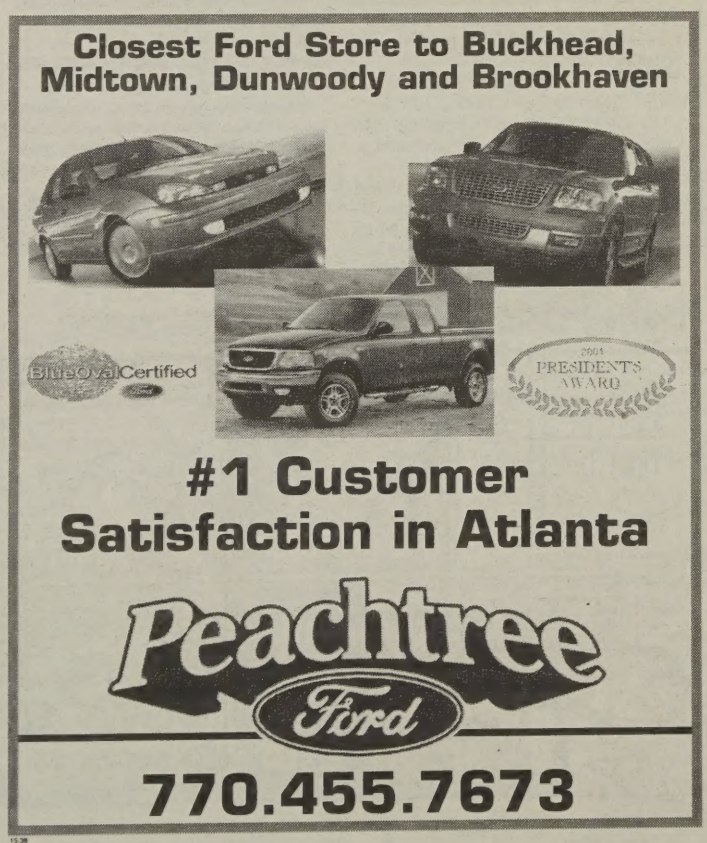
Some argue that once it's proven that homosexuality is genetic, it will mean the end of discrimination. My concern is that once it's proven that homosexuality is genetic, it will also mean the end of homosexuality.

If scientists know what causes queerness, they may also eradicate it. And I'm not sure I want to live in a world without lycra and John Waters movies.

But the issue of whether being gay is a choice is completely irrelevant to the issue of civil rights. After all, religion is a choice, and it's a protected right.

If I choose to worship Jeff Stryker, I should be allowed to. And if someone really thinks being queer is so cool they actually choose to be gay, I say jump in — there's plenty of room in our gene pool.

**Marc Acito** is a syndicated writer in Portland, Ore., and can be reached at **marcacito@attbi.com**.



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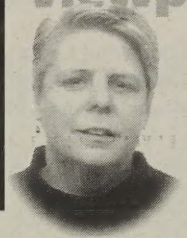

She's a poster girl for passive-aggression, but Dr. **Kerry Weaver on 'E.R.'** is a rare example of a three-dimensional lesbian in TV Land.

# Middle-aged dykes make prime time

I THINK I'M PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE in the universe who likes the character of Dr. Kerry Weaver on "E.R."

I know what all you "E.R." fans are going to say: Kerry's a tight-ass. She's the biggest kiss-up in the universe.

I won't deny Kerry could be a poster girl for passive-aggressive behavior in the workplace. Kerry can be an irritating, pencil-pushing bureaucrat. But I don't see her as essentially devious.

Kerry wants to get ahead, and sometimes she doesn't care whose back she steps on to do it. But that could probably be said of many ambitious people. During the last two seasonsof "E.R.", I saw of bit of Kerry's humanity, as she struggled to come out.

I know she's only a TV character, but how often do we lesbians get to see middle-aged dykes on a TV drama who aren't black-and-white, one-dimensional characters? Kerry Weaver represents a new "age" for lesbians in TV land.

Usually, we only see other gay women in Lifetime TV dramas, and they're usually fighting the courts for their kids, desperately looking for a sperm donor, or trying to get away from their psycho-stalker girlfriend. We rarely see lesbians who are not trailblazers or crusaders, just normal, working women.

Let's face it, we hardly ever see strong, middle-aged female role models, period. Forget strong lesbian role models.

LIKE SO MANY OTHER GAY WOMEN her age, Kerry is trying to find a way to "fit in." Sometimes she does quite well. Other times she struggles with confusion and self-contempt. Laura Innes captures Kerry as she really is: a deeply flawed, ambivalent, gay woman.

That's what makes Kerry fascinating to me. She has to deal with issues of hospital power while coming to terms with her own internal struggles. Even when Kerry is not likable, she is at least believable.

Kerry didn't just glide into gay life like so many cliché TV characters do. She had to endure office gossip and even sexual taunts from her supervisor when she fell for a hospital co-worker.

The first time Kerry met her girlfriend's pals, you could feel her discomfort. Like all gay women, Kerry just wondered where she belonged.

Dr. Weaver is slowly getting there. After struggling with her lesbian identity, Kerry is finally starting to take some risks. Last season Kerry met an attractive paramedic in the E.R. Some flirting ensued. Kerry finally summoned the courage to ask the woman out. The old Kerry would never have flirted in the E.R. so brazenly.

I LIKE THE WAY "E.R." HAS KEPT Kerry evolving as a woman in medicine and as a lesbian, too. Last season she had to deal with a girlfriend who confronted her right in the E.R. with a passionate, very public kiss. Of course, we have to accept that "E.R." does everything a little over the top. But this scene had many lesbians buzzing about the "politics" of that kiss.

Even though I don't approve of the way Kerry's paramedic girlfriend grabbed and smooched her right in the workplace, I can't deny it was one of the hotter kisses in primetime TV. As the relationship between Kerry and her lover keeps heating up, we see she is more than just the cold, numbers-crunching bureaucrat.

She has a life between the sheets. Hard as it is to believe, Dr. Weaver has a playful, passionate side.

Maybe that's why I like Kerry. Even if she is only a TV character, I see Kerry as a smart, caring woman who is far from perfect. Maybe she is just struggling like the rest of us to love herself.

> Usually, we only see other gay women in Lifetime TV dramas. We rarely see lesbians who are not trailblazers or crusaders, just normal, working women.

@ **Terry Loncaric** is a Chicago freelance writer and can be reached at **artsimmersion@aol.com**.

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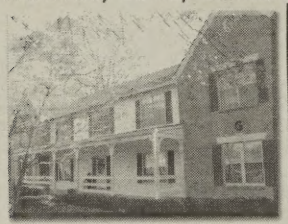

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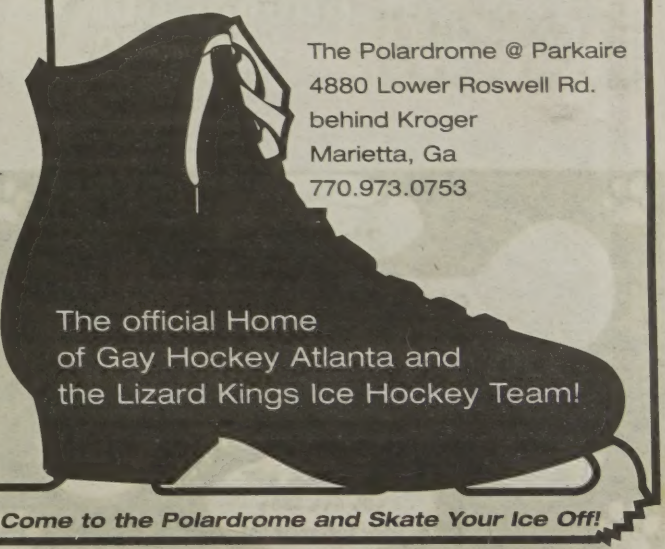

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# on the record

"He has a great physique and he's a great looking guy. The girls were drooling all over him ... the gay guys, too."

*Paula Crane, a photographer who in 2001 discovered **Evan Marriott**, the hunky bachelor from the Fox TV reality series "Joe Millionaire," and referred him for underwear modeling work to California Muscle (www.SmokingGun.com)*

"At the end of 'Joe Millionaire,' the women all learn that he's not a millionaire, but a $19,000-a-year construction worker. They then also learn that he's living with Joe Flight Attendant."

*David Letterman on the Fox TV series "Joe Millionaire"*

"And God said go out into the world and have great sex. ... Amen and amen. ... Gay videos in stock. Clergy discount. Have good sex. Hallelujah!"

*An advertising sign outside of Pure Pleasure adult video store, which stands next door to Midwest Baptist Church in Stewartville, Minn., where the minister has been a vocal opponent of the store (Associated Press, Jan. 15)*

"I'm a bit tired of gays on TV or in the movies [that] are always beautiful people meeting beautiful people."

*French-Canadian playwright and novelist **Michel Tremblay**, who has created a dramatic series, "Le Coeur Decouvert (Open Heart)," for Quebec television that tells the story of a two men in a long-term relationship (CBC News, Jan. 8)*

"Sad though it is to lose the Oscar Wilde Bookshop ... the fading of the gay bookstore as an institution is far from a tragic sign. ... Their decline is a reflection of something very positive — namely, the entrance of gay Americans into mainstream culture over the last decade or so."

*Bruce Bawer, gay author of "A Place at the Table," on the demise of New York's oldest gay bookstore (New York Times, Jan. 13)*

"I think what you're going to see is an increase in [public sex] until either the bathhouse is open again or an alternative facility [is introduced.]"

*Roy Heale, publisher of the gay magazine Outlooks, on a police raid that resulting the closing of the only bathhouse in Calgary, Alberta (Calgary Sun, Jan. 10)*

"Oh, I thought you wanted me to be the parent now — the one whose own love life is not open to discussion, but who's allowed to interfere in yours."

*Advice columnist Miss Manners, on a suggested retort for a lesbian whose newly divorced mother enthusiastically describers her dating adventures but has refused for years to hear anything about her daughter's romantic life (Jan. 12)*

"Outside, I don't care. But I would let him go into the shower alone."

*Nick Ferguson, of the New York Jets, asked by shock jock Howard Stern if he would care about having a gay player on the NFL franchise (New York Daily News, Jan. 11)*

"They won't even talk to me now."

*Vermont state Rep. **Loren Shaw** (R-Derby), on the gay customers and friends he lost by being associated with the "Six Pack," a group of conservative legislators who opposed landmark civil union legislation. Shaw is now distancing himself from the four other remaining members, saying the law "isn't hurting anyone" (Associated Press, Jan. 10)*

## action! alert

# 'Justice' for Atlanta radio?

### New drive-time duo on 96 Rock brings controversial history to station already hounded by gays

By MIKE FLEMING

With a record of on-air stunts like the 'Heterosexual Pride Parade' during their last gig in Riverside, Calif., 'Dick & Justice' bring their act to 96 Rock's afternoon drive-time slot.

GAY EARS PRICKED EARLIER THIS month with the arrival of DJ team "Dick & Justice" on WKLS 96 Rock, a radio station that has drawn the ire of some gays in the past for its on-air antics.

So far, "the FCC still hasn't threatened to pull the license at 96Rock here in Atlanta," the pair said on their Web site this week. "So, that said, we're doing good."

But if the record of "Dick & Justice" at X103.9 in Riverside, Calif., is any indication, gays could have reason to be concerned over the drive-time show, which airs weekdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

In 2001, the pair hosted a "Heterosexual Pride Parade," replete with partially clad women wearing X103.9 bumper stickers across their bare breasts, tractor drivers and pro-straight chants.

Among other stunts, Dick & Justice hosted "Homeless Survivor," which pitted six homeless people against each other in events like shopping cart relays and smashing open food cans with rocks.

Outrage over the incident led the station to apologize.

X103.9 officials did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

THE GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE Against Defamation, a gay media watchdog group, was not involved in criticism of "Heterosexual Pride Parade," but the group is aware of the team's history, according to Beth George, regional media manager at GLAAD.

"We know who 'Dick & Justice' are and their history of obnoxious material, including anti-gay material," George said. "We know that, overall, their antics are just in poor taste and we will keep a close eye on them."

George recently called Atlanta a "hotbed of anti-gay radio defamation," but said she hopes for the best from the team based on recent improvements she's seen in metro Atlanta's radio market.

"96 Rock has yet to reconcile its history with the gay community," she said. "But we will continue a dialogue with them to try and keep it under control."

GLAAD is currently seeking volunteers to monitor the show, she said.

96 ROCK RILED ACTIVISTS IN THE PAST through its morning show hosted by the Regular Guys, who have used anti-gay slurs like "faggot" and warned children away from hairdressers.

Last March, gay activists again set their sites on the Regular Guys after they discussed playing "Smear the Queer" on school playgrounds. The station aired a recorded statement saying the comments were not intended to advocate violence.

Tim Dukes, WKLS program manager, defended "politically incorrect" humor last year, and he said that listeners could expect off-color comedy from "Dick & Justice."

"They're just a couple of young guys in their early 30s that have a great chemistry together and are quick witted," Dukes said. "The show they do is not like the Regular Guys show in that it's more music intensive.

"But at the same time, I wouldn't pretend they're going to be PC at all times," he added.

Dukes said on-air stunts like the "Heterosexual Pride Parade" and "Homeless Survivor" could find a home on the new show.

"I cant' say I would or wouldn't go for it without fleshing out the idea first," he said. "Both those events set off red flags in my mind, but I don't make a habit of unilateral decisions until we hash it out and make a conscious decision together."

Dukes said the station hasn't fielded any complaints from gay listeners recently. Clear Channel Communications, which owns WKLS and several other stations in metro Atlanta, hired gay Marketing Director Scott Baker in October. He will also serve as a liaison between the stations and gays, Dukes said.

### ACTION! INFO

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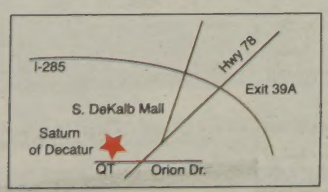




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**BLESSED ACT:** Sexually charged play conjures Catholic priest scandal with story of parochial schoolboys. **Page 38**

**BIG 'TALK':** Latest film from gay director stars **Javier Camara** as a man in an intriguing friendship. **Page 33**

*Indeed, Miss Manners has come to believe that the basic political division in this country is not between liberals and conservatives, but between those who believe that they should have a say in the love lives of strangers and those who do not.*
*Miss Manners (Judith Martin)*

## Miss Manners

**Q:** *I am a middle-aged man who enjoys wearing women's clothing. I have always restricted this behavior to the privacy of my apartment, but now I have a wonderful opportunity to venture out ... in New York City. I am worried that it may be impolite to impose — however tastefully — my uncommon sartorial tastes on an unwitting public ...*
**A:** Miss Manners has more faith than you do in the sophistication of New Yorkers. While it may be true that they have rarely observed anyone of ladylike appearance and demeanor whose sartorial taste runs to the subdued, modest and demure, she believes they can be trusted to absorb the shock. She wishes you pleasant holiday.
***Miss Manners (Judith Martin)***

**Q:** What should I say to a homosexual couple when I encounter them on the street?
**A:** How about 'hello?'
***Miss Manners (Judith Martin)***

Letters on gay issues in widely read columns like **Judith Martin's** 'Miss Manners' and **Pauline and Jeanne Phillips'** 'Dear Abby' are overwhelmingly respectful and supportive.

# Advice worth taking

As Miss Manners visits Atlanta, how has counsel on gay issues changed over the years?

By MIKE FLEMING

It's been said that advice is the only free offering that people won't take.

But even if folks don't ultimately follow what they hear, the multitude of advice columns in virtually every medium suggests that people at least seek counsel before tossing it to the wind.

And when it comes to gay issues, times have changed for columnists and readers alike.

The subject of homosexuality was scarce in mainstream columns as recently as 40 years ago, but that norm has given way to informed, thoughtful answers to gay questions, according to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, a gay media watchdog group.

"It's not simply the fact that responses from columnists are more informed, but they now give more information," Cathy Renna, news media director for GLAAD, said in an interview two years ago.

GLAAD regularly receives calls from columnists looking for the most appropriate support referral for a troubled letter writer, she said.

SOME TRADITIONAL advice columnists, long known for answering questions about wedding gifts and table manners, now regularly dispense respectful responses to gay-oriented questions.

One of the most widely syndicated is "Miss Manners," penned since 1978 by Judith Martin, who is set to speak on the culture of rituals on Jan. 23 at Emory University.

When her column began, Martin made a name for herself by dispensing practical advice that put the onus of etiquette on making people feel comfortable rather than on what is "proper." Knowing which fork to use could be an issue of too many forks on the table, rather than a chance to weed out folks "in the know" from those who aren't, Martin asserted.

That use of down-to-earth practicality now often trans-

Please see **ADVICE, Page 43**

## Dear Abby

**Q: Trevor (my 10-year-old son) has taken an interest in cooking and dance. He doesn't mix well with other boys, is teased constantly ... He is effeminate and introspective. I have come to the conclusion that Trevor is a homosexual — or rather, will be when he's more developed. ... What can I do to make this 'coming out' process easier on my son?**
A: The most important thing you can do for Trevor is let him know you love him unconditionally, regardless of his eventual orientation. By all means, talk to him about sexuality, in an age-appropriate way. If your son is being harassed at school, discuss it with the principal. Your son is legally entitled to an education free of harassment.

**Dear Abby**
**(Pauline and Jeanne Phillips)**

DEAR TRANSGENDERED: YOU ARE NOT A MISTAKE. I CONGRATULATE YOU FOR BEING HONEST ABOUT WHO YOU ARE, KNOWING IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR SOME PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND. I ALSO APPLAUD THOSE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO SUPPORT YOU. MANY TRANSSEXUALS LIVE VERY SUCCESSFULLY IN THEIR NEW GENDER AND CLAIM THEY ARE TRULY HAPPY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR LIVES.
*DEAR ABBY (PAULINE AND JEANNE PHILLIPS)*

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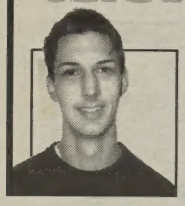
# television BRIAN MOYLAN



Lifetime's 'The Division' throws viewers a curveball by casting **two famous actresses** as a pair of lesbian moms.

Police Officer Raina Washington (**Taraji P. Henson**, center) has to deal with the breakup of her mothers (**Sally Struthers** and **Debbie Allen**) on Lifetime's 'The Division' this week. (Photo courtesy of Lifetime)

# Raina has two mommies

IT MAY BE SURPRISING THAT Lifetime, which often features movies about gay issues, is cable's number one prime-time network.

The network also has some great original programming, like "The Division," a show about a police precinct in San Francisco that has a surprisingly high number of female officers. But, after all, this is "television for women."

"The Division," which deals with the police officers' cases and their private lives, stars Nancy McKeon, who played the super-butch but officially straight Jo on "Facts of Life," as officer Jinny Exstead.

The Jan. 19 episode debuts veteran actors Sally Struthers and Debbie Allen as lesbian moms to officer Raina Washington, played by Taraji P. Henson.

THERE IS ALREADY TALK THAT THE dynamic duo will be back for more episodes, but nothing has been solidified yet.

The story goes that the couple adopted Raina when she was young and that the three have been a family ever since.

But at the beginning of the episode, Raina finds out that Wanda (Allen) has moved out of the house and left Eve (Struthers) a single gal again after 30 years. Raina is hurt, not only because her mothers didn't tell her about their troubles, but also because she is afraid of change, and of losing the only family she has known.

When Raina tries to reunite the two, the results are disastrous, and in a very un-Hollywood ending, they remain separated, much to their daughter's chagrin.

"THE DIVISION" DESERVES A ROUND of applause for showing lesbians at all and extra kudos for showing the realistic scenario in which there isn't always a happy ending. It subverts the age-old U-Haul joke, as well as the notion that many gay stuffed shirts want to perpetuate that gays always make ideal parents.

It's been an uphill battle to get equal rights for gay parents and to win the right to adopt children, but the idea that all gay families are happy is a myth. Families headed by same-sex parents are subject to the same problems and pitfalls as those run by opposite-sex parents.

By showing this episode, "The Division" puts an end to the propaganda that if gay parents were allowed to adopt, they would live happily ever after with their well-adjusted children who attend Pride parades and only celebrate Mother's Day — or Father's Day, as the case may be.

At the end of the episode, Raina talks to her commanding officer (played by Bonnie Bedelia) about how her family was always "special." She doesn't mean special as in special to her, or special like the Special Olympics, but special in that it wasn't like most families.

It gives credence to the Tolstoy saying that all unhappy families are unhappy in their own way — that this family, no matter how "special" the situation, still has its problems. The depiction of Wanda, Eve and Raina is what gays have been longing for: fair and equal treatment in the media.

Struthers is just as squeaky-voiced as ever as the more passive and dour of the partners, and Allen gives Wanda the injured bombast that is common when people leave a relationship. The two make for a great pair, especially when fighting, and do a great job setting up their characters and the family dynamic in the short time they have on screen.

Let's hope that the show's producers and the audience take notice so this dysfunctional family will be back to air a whole new set of problems.

**MORE INFO**
'The Division'
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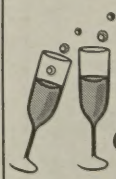

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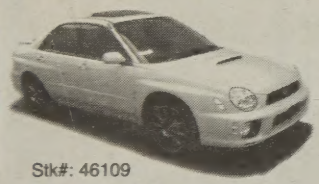

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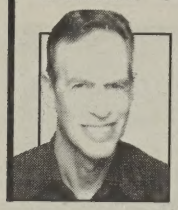


Rich subtext and nuggets of diversion make 'Talk to Her' best yet from gay director, but 'Me Without You' is less successful.

# 'Talk' isn't cheap

PEDRO ALMODOVAR EXPLORES uncharted regions of the human mind and heart in "Talk to Her" ("Hable con ella"), one of his best films. The film has Almodovar's usual kinks, but it's also a piñata filled with entertainment.

Jewels this go-round include two Pina Bausch ballets, a Caetano Veloso serenade and a newly-created silent movie, "Shrinking Lover," which seems like another diversion but proves essential to the plot.

At the first ballet, two strangers are seated next to each other. They don't speak, but Benigno (Javier Camara) notices that the dance makes Marco (Dario Grandinetti) cry. They will meet several months later — the film jumps around in time, but not confusingly — at the private hospital where Benigno works as a nurse assigned exclusively to Alicia (Leonor Watling), who has been in a coma for four years. Lydia (Rosario Flores), the bullfighter Marco has been seeing, has been gored by a bull and is also comatose

Marco is not as adept as Benigno at engaging in one-sided dialogues with his unconscious loved one. Benigno tells Alicia about everything he does, which isn't much, because he has no life outside the hospital and frequently works double shifts. When he sees a movie, he describes it to her in detail.

THE BACKGROUND STORY EMERGES through conversations and flashbacks. Before the accident that brought Alicia to the hospital, Benigno had virtually been stalking her and questioned the sexual orientation of this 25-year-old virgin.

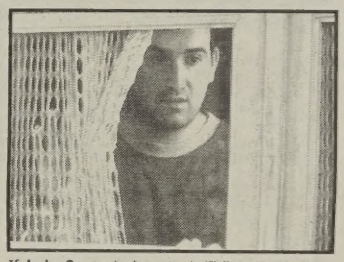
Until his mother's recent death, Benigno devoted his life to caring for her. For her sake, he studied nursing, hairdressing and other skills to use in her service.

If the character isn't gay, he should be. Even Marco recoils briefly at their first meeting, thinking Benigno is hitting on him.

Almodovar's style becomes ever more complex. He creates visual poetry from mundane hospital procedures and delights in finding ways of stretching bodies across the full width of the screen.

Like the "Shrinking Lover" interlude, "Talk to Her" is often funny and touching at the same time. Almodovar has the same influences as Todd Haynes ("Far from Heaven") and Francois Ozon ("8 Women"), but he uses them to move cinema into the future rather than the past.

THE LADIES OF "ME WITHOUT YOU" are more energetic, sometimes high but never comatose. The story spans 28 years



If **Javier Camara**'s character in 'Talk to Her' isn't gay, he should be.

of an often-toxic friendship with the emphasis on the times the women are at each other's throats.

The setting is England, but the story is universal. Next-door neighbors Holly (Michelle Williams) and Marina (Anna Friel) form a sisterhood, their roles already established in the opening scenes from 1973.

"Some people are pretty people and some people are clever people," Holly's Jewish mother tells her.

Marina, being one of the pretty people, doesn't need to be told that.

Holly finally acts on her secret crush on Marina's brother Nat (Oliver Milburn) at the party where Marina first shoots heroin. The jealous Marina fails to deliver a note from Nat to Holly, beginning a pattern that will keep them from hooking up as they should for years.

The friendship recovers from a 1982 blowup. A 1989 sequence shows what's changed and what hasn't, and a brief epilogue in 2001 lets us see how things turn out.

"Me Without You" gave me so many flashbacks to my girlhood I had to keep reminding myself I was never a girl.

## MORE INFO

**'Talk to Her'**
★★★ out of ★★★★
Queer Quotient: The director's gay sensibility shines through, with male bonding more important than each man's heterosexual love interest.

**'Me Without You'**
★★1/2 out of ★★★★
Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Lefont Garden Hills Cinema
2835 Peachtree Road, NE
www.peachtreefilm.org
770-729-8487
Queer Quotient: The director and the author of the source novel are gay. It can be viewed as a story of women of two bygone eras who repressed their gay leanings and one modern woman who doesn't.

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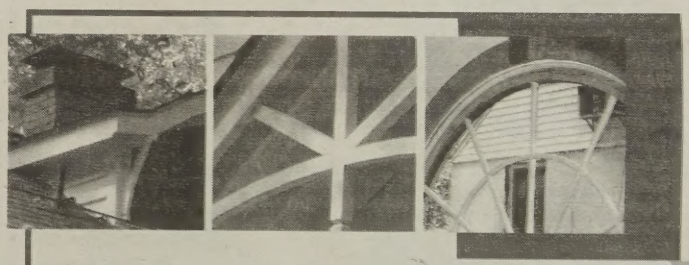
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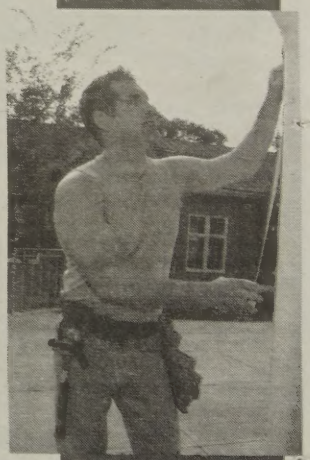
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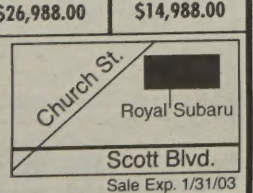

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books KEVIN RIORDAN

Action novel from **freshman gay writer** took years to achieve, but author says worthy result is garnering rave reviews.

# 'Cut' to the chase

AUTHOR ROBERT CONNER DOESN'T care for the cerebral sort of fiction that's long on contemplation and short on plot.

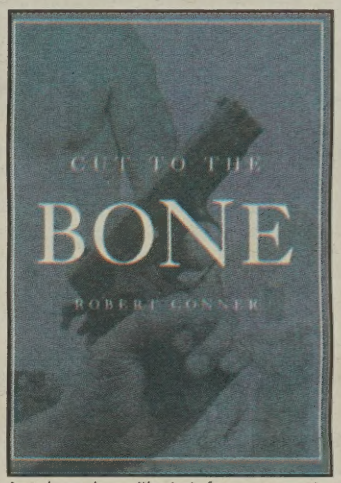
"I like stories that move ... stories where things happen," says the first-time novelist, whose "Cut to the Bone" puts the action in the phrase "action-packed."

"You don't have to imitate Tom Clancy," he observes. "But you can sure take a lesson from him."

If "Cut to the Bone" is any indication, Conner has indeed taken a lesson from the master of the testosterone-soaked techno-thriller. Featuring a macho hero named Santos who is unequivocally gay but morally ambiguous — if not downright twisted — "Cut to the Bone" is a fast and furious tale of guys, guns, gadgets, drugs, double-crossing, violence and vengeance.

"I got the idea for a revenge novel from a Kevin Costner movie called 'Revenge,'" Conner said recently from his home in Austin, where he works full-time as a nurse.

The 55-year-old Evansville, Ind., native began writing what would become "Cut to the Bone" several years ago, while pursuing a degree in Spanish and Latin-American studies.




A macho gay hero with a taste for vengeance sets out on a journey of guns and intrigue in Robert Conner's 'Cut to the Bone.'

THE NOVEL WENT THROUGH SEVERAL incarnations and Conner found himself adding storylines and characters as he went along. In all, "Cut to the Bone" was rewritten a half-dozen times.

"I added one layer of complexity after another," the author said. "The more I did that, the more satisfied I was with the story.

Conner, who lived for a time in Mexico, said he wanted not only to tell a tale of vengeance, but to explore what he termed Mexican culture's "hypocrisy" about homosexuality. Some of the novel is based on interviews the author conducted with Mexican gays, and some of it "is pulled from my misadventures," he said.

Conner said he also wanted his book to include "social commentary;" with its sub-plots about neo-Nazis, narco-terrorists and pusillanimous politicos, "Cut to the Bone" serves up some topical substance along with the sizzle.

The book includes several sympathetic and well-drawn characters, including a female El Paso police detective named Jen.

"I hate police fiction that dresses up the police," Conner said. "And I hate action heroes who are like plastic people ... who are like a cartoon."

The author also dislikes novelists who don't do their homework and make sloppy mistakes. Details about weaponry or other technical content should be accurate, and errors can shatter a reader's confidence, he noted.

"When you're spinning a story, you're creating an illusion," Conner said. "An illusion is a thin tissue that's easy to break."

WHEN THE AUTHOR, WHO DESCRIBES himself as "very Type A" about plausibility, was finally satisfied with "Cut to the Bone," he began the tough task of getting it published

"For a couple of years there, I was kind of shopping it around. Finally, I said to myself, 'I'm a gay man, writing a gay novel.' So I sent it blindly to Alyson [the gay-owned publishing house]. The ball started to roll."

Cover blurbs from gay literary icons such as John Rechy (who called it a "fine, exciting novel") and Patricia Nell Warren ("a highly original story") have helped blunt the impact of the bad notice the novel got from Kirkus ("flares brightly but fades fast").

Undaunted, Conner is already two-thirds of the way through writing his next book.

"It's about the supernatural," he said. "It's a nice change of pace. And it's much more creepy."

**MORE INFO**
'Cut to the Bone'
Alyson Publications
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# Gay man who would be mayor

## Tallahassee candidate hopes voters focus on issues, not his age or sexual orientation

**Richard Junnier**, who's gay and 22, has a keen interest in politics and now hopes to be elected the mayor of Tallahassee.

MANY 22-YEAR-OLD GAY MEN ARE BUSY going to the gym, buying the latest designer clothing and arguing about the epistemological merit of the new Madonna remix. Not true for **RICHARD JUNNIER** (pronounced "junior"), a senior at Florida State University who is campaigning to be the next mayor of Tallahassee, Fla.

"[The city government] was trying to do some strange things, Junnier says. "They wanted to pass a fine for skateboarding, they tried to ban students from living in certain neighborhoods. No one wanted to run against the current mayor, but he eventually stepped aside anyway.

"I couldn't find a candidate who would talk about these issues, so I decided to talk about these issues," he says.

But it's not all fun and games for Junnier, who is trying his best to actually be sworn into office.

"I have a far better shot than we would have been able to project two years ago," he says. "I did very well in the candidate forums. Also, I've been offering very specific ideas and how much I expect them to cost and how I'm going to pay for them. When you're being very specific it makes a solid impact on the electorate."

Junnier is gay, but he doesn't think his sexual orientation will have an impact on the election.

"Tallahassee is a very progressive community, and in municipal elections, turnout is very low and it tends to be polarized to either very liberal or very conservative," he says. "The conservatives wouldn't vote for me anyway."

This latest foray into the political arena is just a continuation of Junnier's career in politics. In 1997, he successfully lobbied to stop Coral Springs, Fla., from passing a youth curfew.

This may be the first move in Junnier's rise to the top, so to all the boys out there, he is still single. If you want a chance to be the first "First Gentleman," you might want to hop on the train now.

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE JULIAN, YOUR gay cruise director, might have been busier than you thought.

**MTV** is considering running an episode about participants on a gay cruise on its popular show **SEX2K**.

That is, according to a posting on ProfNet, a service for reporters who are looking for experts and professionals.

"If you're between the ages of 18 and 30, and are taking a gay cruise in the next few months, MTV wants to tag along as you cast your net of love and document your trip with their camera," the ad reads.

Interested parties are asked to send an email to sex2k@mtvstaff.

"Please include a recent photograph," the ad says, with the subtext of "the old and ugly need not apply."

Nice.

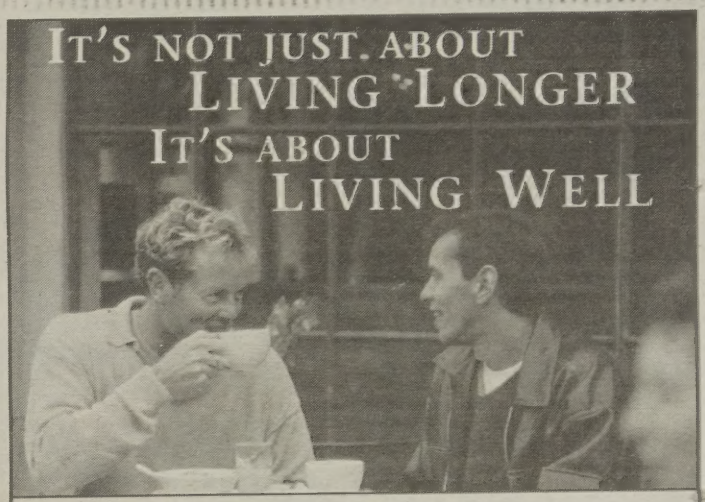
IN OTHER WACKY REALITY TV NEWS, British television, home to "Pop Idols," which became uber successful in America as "American Idol," has decided to cash in on the gay cache of these bastard stepchildren of "Star Search."

The production company Springboard places an ad in the trade publication the Stage announcing auditions for a new show. The ad reads, "Poof Idols. Well, it was bound to happen."

"We felt that shows like 'Pop Idol' were a bit jaded and losing their edge a bit and wanted something that was a little more controversial," Springboard spokesman James Nicholas told the Manchester Evening News.

If we are forced to watch 20 drag queens and 15 dance music divas vie for a prize on national television, a new fashion accessory on the gay scene may will be a noose.

Send comments, suggestions to Dish@sovo.com.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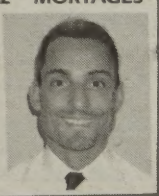

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# Sins of the father

## Plot sounds ripped from headlines, but play about priest abuse tells singular story

By JIM FARMER

J. Marcelo Banderas and Nick Rhoton play pivotal roles as a Catholic schoolboy and an abusive elder in the sexually charged premiere of Charles L. Ross' 'Confessions' at 7 Stages.

AT AN ALL-BOYS' PAROCHIAL school, scandal erupts when a student sexually propositions a priest and another teenage boy accuses a religious brother of pedophilia.

It may sound like today's headlines, but it's actually the precept behind the new drama "Confessions," opening at 7 Stages this week.

As penned by Charles L. Ross, a local gay writer, the play is more than a quickie attempt to capitalize on the current-day scandal within the Catholic Church.

"Some people might think that, but I wrote this way back in 1995," Ross says. "This wasn't written just because of recent events."

Of the eight characters in "Confessions," five are high school altar boys, one month away from graduation, all but one around the age of 17. The other is 14 and advanced academically, if not emotionally mature.

One of the students is clear about his sexual orientation and wants to seduce a priest, and an older church member is sexually abusing another. The three adult characters include a priest who questions his own sexuality and his vow of celibacy.

ROSS IS AWARE THAT THE SHOW'S TIMing is a double-edged sword. Last summer, the theatrical film "The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys" tanked, with many critics suggesting the recent scandal and the awkward title made it untouchable.

"I never saw it, but I could see how that might happen," Ross said. "[But] I think one of the reasons the show is being produced now is because it's timely. I always thought it would be done when it was supposed to be done, and that time seems to be now."

When 7 Stages decided to forge ahead, gay director Bob Putnam came aboard. Then the really hard part came: finding actors willing to deal with the tricky demands of the script.

Gay actor J. Marcelo Banderas was cast in the pivotal role of 14-year-old Jerry.

"He's not quite developed," Banderas says of his character. "Jerry's not sure of himself, but he is a survivor, knowing that if he can just hang on until graduation the abuse will be over. He's not gay, but he's really not even at a stage in his life where he would think about things like that."

Ironically, the actor himself is 25.

"But I don't look it," he says. "I have a small build and young features. I always get carded when I go out. The only drastic thing that I had to do for the role was to shave my legs."

AT THE AUDITION, BANDERAS WAS asked if he would be comfortable with onstage nudity. He admits that he wasn't sure at first.

"I met with Chuck and Bob, though, and they reassured me," he says.

In the script, two of the school bullies take off Jerry's pants, taunting him, "wanting to see if he has pubes." Banderas appears nude from the waist down.

"Confession's" other nude scene is when a gay student strips and tries to entice a priest.

"Frankly, I can't imagine this play without that scene," said Ross. "It's very important and not gratuitous."

Ross says that his play is ultimately a small-scale story, more about the individual characters and their microcosm than the larger issues of the Catholic church.

"I think what distinguishes this is that it doesn't touch upon the recent scandal," he says. "It really doesn't go into the church much at all. It's a personal story.

"I was brought up Catholic and I didn't write this to criticize the church," he adds. "I think it's balanced. It's not an indictment."

Both Ross and Banderas are anxious to see the local reaction, they say.

"I'll be interested to see how the religious community here responds, especially while the real-life controversy goes on," Ross says. "I guess afterwards, we'll determine what to do with the show."

"If the right people come to see it, sure, it could be controversial," Banderas agrees. "But that wouldn't have made me not want to do this. It deals with issues that need to be addressed."

The Stella Foundation, a new company founded by Ross, produces "Confessions."

"I started the foundation to promote gay writing by gay writers," Ross says. "This is the first event, but we will continue working with Tim Miller's upcoming show at 7 Stages and with other events."

### MORE INFO

'Confessions'
Through Feb. 2
7 Stages Theater
1105 Euclid Ave., NE
404-522-0911

## appts.

### FRIDAY JAN. 17

**Danielle Howle**, known for her powerful voice and funny anecdotes between songs, joins another lesbian favorite, Wendy Bucklew, on stage at Eddie's Attic at 9:30 p.m. 515-B N. McDonough St. 404-377-4976

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### WEDNESDAY JAN. 22

Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse hosts a signing of 'The Sweet Potato Queens, Big-Ass Cookbook (and Financial Planner)' by **Jill Connor Browne** at 7:30 p.m. The book cooks up recipes for dealing with life's little lemons. 991 Piedmont Ave. 404-607-0082

Latina lesbian comedian **Reno** comes to Asheville, N.C., to perform 10 nights of 'Rebel Without a Pause: Unrestrained Reflections on Sep. 11' from Jan. 22 to Feb. 1. North Carolina Stage Company, 33 Haywood St. in Asheville. www.ncstage.org

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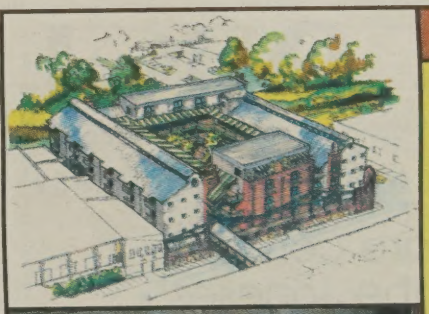

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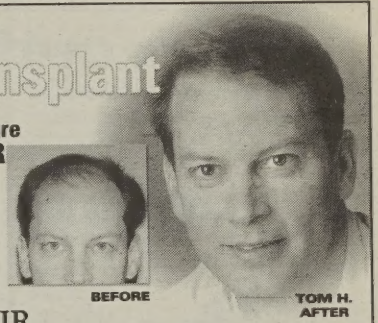

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# Fuel for winter

FOR GAY MEN IN ATLANTA, IT IS POSsible that the intersection of 10th Street and Piedmont Avenue is the epicenter of the world.

Gay bar Blake's on the Park has been there since at least the middle ages, but what really queered that corner was Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse. It was followed quickly by a bunch of gay-owned and gay-friendly restaurants and shops, including Big Red Tomato.

Lesbians may be more drawn to Little Five Points, where it was also a bookstore, Charis Books & More, a lesbian-feminist institution, that pioneered the area for queers. The corresponding eating establishment over there is the Flying Biscuit, which soon opened a location at Boystown Corner as well.

It's been several years since I've eaten at Big Red Tomato, though I remembered it as a pleasant place. I especially liked the huge street-side patio, both as a place to eat and a vantage point on the passing parade. But, generally the food was ho-hum and heavy.

Two recent chilly nights found me stopping there, and I was glad I did. The patio is serviceable even in the cold, because it's enclosed and heated. But that intimate, glowing dining room is a winter treat.

THE CASUAL, SQUARE SPACE IS done in warm reds and golds, with muted lighting. The full bar along one wall makes a civilized spot for solo dining. I've seen several people doing that, and eating alone at tables too. That people feel comfortable coming here on their own says a great deal about the quality of the welcome.

The menu is freshened up — but not, alas, lightened up. The cooking remains dominantly Italian and rich. Think cheese and bread and pasta and cream and more cheese. Then eat up and get back on the Stairmaster.

Eating the roasted red pepper and shrimp bisque ($5) is something like sipping out of the butter churn. The shrimp are ground fine. A big belt of sherry lends tang.

Veal and sage ravioli ($15) is new with this winter's menu. They are generously stuffed with ground veal mixed with chives and parmesan, the flavor of which is excellent. But the sauce is unnecessarily gluey. Memo to kitchen: lose the flour thickening. The red and white striped tomato and egg pasta is very pretty, but way too tough.

I soldiered through, only to nearly break a tooth on a shard of veal bone in my last bite. Life's full of risk, and I'm willing to take them — just so I can tell you where to eat. Lucky you.

MY RETURN VISIT WAS RIGHT AFTER the holidays. I was feeling especially overfed and did my best to patch together a light meal. A seafood salad ($13) seemed the way to go.

The seafood itself is lovely — sautéed shrimp and calamari, and a gorgeously prepared slab of salmon that is still just barely translucent at its center. The plate is amply piled with mixed greens, Roma tomatoes and streamed green beans and dressed with a nice tart vinaigrette.

I should have stopped there. For a second course, I had an appetizer of mushroom risotto ($6). It is absolutely delicious, with a forward fragrance and earthy taste from its porobellos, criminis and porcinis.

It is also hands down the richest risotto I have ever consumed — and honey, I've had a few. Is that actually whipping cream in which the tender grains of rice were suspended? Or mascarpone? Substitute raisins for the mushrooms and sugar for the salt and it could easily pass as dessert.

Eating at Big Red Tomato is good as long as it's cold out. After that, unless they lighten up, I will only stop by for an occasional white wine spritzer.

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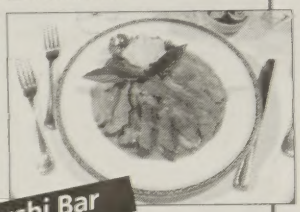
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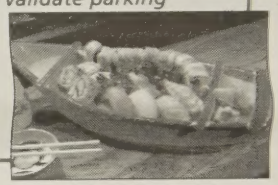

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# Advice on gay issues swings in gays' favor as years pass

ADVICE, continued from Page 29

lates into educating readers on gay issues. In response to a letter asking what to say when meeting a gay couple, Martin answered, "How about 'hello'?"

Other mainstream columnists have also offered gay-supportive advice.

"Dear Abby," founded by Pauline Phillips ("Abigail Van Buren") and written by her daughter Jeanne Phillips since 1987, and "Dear Ann Landers," which halted publication upon the death of writer Eppie Lederer (the elder Phillips' twin sister) last year, are the most widely syndicated advice columns in history.

0Lederer became the first to openly discuss homosexuality in 1958 and used her influence to force some news outlets to run her gay-supportive answers.

"I've changed my mind about a few things," Lederer said in a 1990 interview with the Chicago Tribune. "Early on, I knew nothing about homosexuality. Later, I became sympathetic... I believe I helped them in their struggle for acceptance."

Lederer's realization was a windfall for gays, said Meryl Cohn, who writes "Ms. Behavior," a syndicated gay advice column that regularly appears in gay newspapers, including Southern Voice.

"I remember feeling, growing up, that she made an attempt to be open-minded a bit ahead of her time," Cohn says. "She helped people of my parents' generation to feel a little less freaked out by queers."

Sex columnist 'Dr. Ruth' Westheimer joins other advice mavens in consistent gay support.

## 'Dr. Ruth' Westheimer

**Dear Reparative Mom:** Whatever homosexuality is, it is not a disease that can be cured. ... There are organizations that claim to 'brainwash' a gay person into thinking that they are straight, but I don't believe that would really be what's best for your son. Rather than try to change his sexual orientation, I believe you need some help in learning how to accept his sexual orientation.

— 'Dr. Ruth' Westheimer

Phillips quickly followed her sister's lead in "Dear Abby."

"When I began writing my column, homosexuality was a crime. It still is, in some places. ... I've learned a lot since then, and in recent years, closet doors have been swinging wide," Phillips writes on her Web site.

"Dr. Ruth" Westheimer, who became a household name for matter-of-fact sex advice in the 1980s, always supported gays and regularly told gay readers and their families to accept themselves.

"[Homosexuality] is not a disease to be cured," she repeated on many occasions.

BUT EVEN WITH SUPPORT FROM MAINstream columnists, there was still a void for uniquely gay quandries when Cohn began her column 11 years ago, she says.

Miss Manners and Dear Abby often tell mainstream readers how to deal with gays, but Cohn and other gay columnists directly address gay interests, she says.

"I didn't know of any other gay and lesbian advice columnists at the time, and the mainstream ones certainly weren't addressing issues like body piercing or lesbian fashion," Cohn says. "And I've rarely seen them discuss gay and lesbian relationships."

Questions and responses have changed, even during Cohn's relatively short time in print, she says.

"I receive fewer coming out questions, which I take as a positive sign," Cohn says. "I think it means more people are already out and making their way fairly comfortably.

"I've noticed an increase in questions from gay men looking for other men who want serious relationships and ... and an increase in questions from lesbians who want casual sex but can't find other lesbians who'll boff without commitment," she adds.

Dan Savage, a columnist whose syndicated "Savage Love" is among the most widely distributed columns by an openly gay writer, bought Lederer's desk from her estate when she died last year "to keep it in the advice business."

His tongue-in-cheek responses often raise eyebrows ("Go ahead and fuck him," read one piece of recent advice), but that freedom comes from a debt he owes to Lederer, Phillips and Martin, he says.

"Considering the papers that they run in — small town, rural — and the gay-positive things both have to say on a regular basis, we should be sending them boxes of chocolate on a daily basis," Savage says.

Paige Parvin contributed to this report

### MORE INFO

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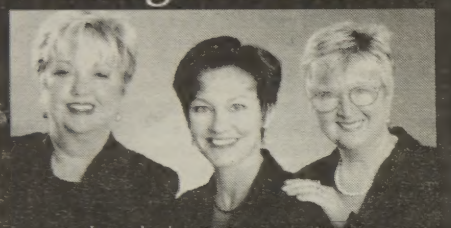

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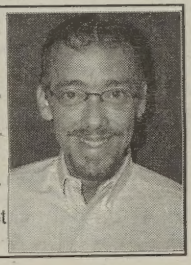

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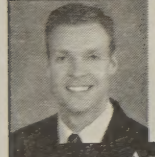

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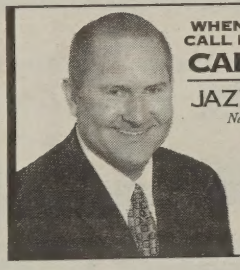

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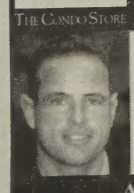

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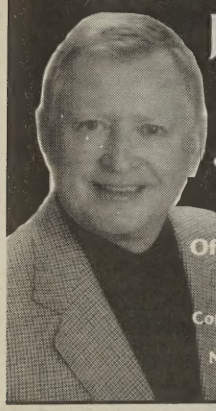

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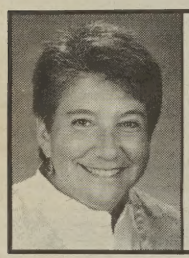

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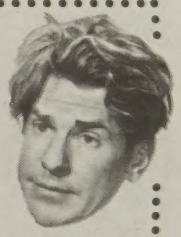

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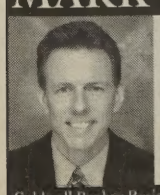

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Instead of throwing out holiday leftovers, **brave the freezer** to follow a few tips that make the most of those great eats.

# Remains of the day

Re-invent turkey to create meals that will question why people say they're sick of the bird after the holidays.

AS WE ALL WOBBLE OUR WAY BACK to the office from the holidays, it's too late to worry that we didn't need a 25-pound turkey, three desserts, 12 pounds of candied sweet potatoes and enough broccoli and green bean casserole to feed a football team.

But something takes over when we start cooking for Thanksgiving and we adopt a kind of siege mentality through New Year's — cooking as if we have to feed at least 30 people and eating as if each of us was at least two.

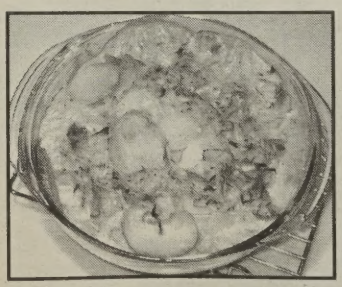
Chances are the freezer is still bulging with leftovers.

But that surplus bounty can be one of the best things of all about the holidays. I never know what people are talking about when they say they are sick of turkey after only a couple of meals. I've never gotten tired of it, nor of any of the traditional sides and fixings.

If there is anything more satisfying than a turkey and dressing sandwich piled high on toasted bread — with or without the leftover gravy or cranberry sauce — we are probably better off not knowing about it.

But those leftovers don't have to go into a sandwich to be recycled in a satisfying and delicious way. There is so much that you can do that is as good — if not better — than the original article.

Here are a few ways to continue the feast the day after.



Leftover holiday vegetables can be combined with excess cranberries for a delightful post-holiday casserole.

That intimidating turkey carcass is perfect to make a soup base that, with a little creativity, transcends reminders of holiday fare.

FOR THE TURKEY STILL IN THE FREEZER, chop it fine or slice it to mix with a curried white sauce, raisins, minced onions and chopped nuts for an unusually wonderful curried turkey salad spread.

Or fold the diced meat into leftover gravy and a shot of Madeira or sherry. Put the melange into a casserole, mix an egg with crumbled leftover dressing and spread the dressing batter over the top of the turkey and gravy, dot with butter, and bake at 350 degrees farenheit until the dressing is set and golden and the turkey filling is bubbly.

Also try simmering the carcass in water to cover with onions, celery, carrots, parsley, a little piece of ginger root, a few peppercorns and a few sprigs of thyme and sage. It makes a terrific soup base. Strain it, pick and save the meat that is left on the bones, and add it to the broth with lots of vegetables and rice or noodles.

And then there's turkey hash, made with the leftover vegetables and maybe a chopped onion with a healthy dose of diced potatoes. The result is surely one of the greatest compensations for having leftovers that there is.

THAT LEFTOVER DRESSING IS GREAT on those lovely sandwiches or simply moistened with a little broth and reheated. Dressing can be split and toasted and served as an accompaniment for turkey soup, or as a carrier for the inevitable dose of creamed turkey.

Or cut it into bite-sized lumps and float it in the soup as dumplings. Mix it with a little egg and drop it by spoonfuls into the simmering soup.

Mash up leftover sweet potatoes with a little cream, some grated orange zest and a shot of Grand Marnier or bourbon. Spoon into ramekins and bake until hot and bubbly. Or doctor them up with the orange zest and liqueur, mash well and fold in whipped cream. Spoon into ramekins, chill, and serve as Sweet Potato Mousse.

Another sweet potato option is to slice and pile them into a baking dish, add water and a splash of liqueur if they are dry, and top with a biscuit crust. Brush the crust with beaten egg white and dust it with sugar and cinnamon, then bake the whole as a cobbler.

LEFTOVER CRANBERRIES BENEFIT from a generous grating of orange zest. And most cranberry sauces, preserves, chutney or relish make terrific shortcake or tart fillings.

Make lightly sweetened biscuit shortcakes, split them and pile on the cranberries, then top with whipped or clotted cream, or fill pre-baked mini tart shells or puff pastry vol-au-vents. Top with whipped or clotted cream.

Leftover broccoli is delicious cold as a salad, drizzled with lemon juice and olive oil and generously seasoned with salt and pepper. Or saute cubed bacon with thin-sliced onions and the leftover broccoli.

Chop leftover vegetables and add them to the soup made from the turkey carcass, or mix plain vegetables with cream sauce and leftover ham and/or turkey, top with buttered crumbs, and bake until bubbly.

The important thing is to keep your mind open and the refrigerator door closed: leftovers should be kept well covered and chilled. They only happen once a year, and they won't keep long, so enjoy them while they last.

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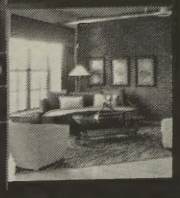

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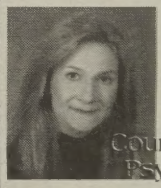

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SWM, 5'9", 170lbs, enjoys camping, singing, dancing, quiet evenings at home. Seeking BM, with similar interests, for friendship, or personal, private LTR. Athens ☎5877

**BEAR MATE WANTED**
GWM, 55, 5'10", 230lbs, hairy bear bottom, seeks bigger bear top for fun, friendship and possible LTR. Woodstock ☎6597

**SERIOUS MALE**
GBM, 50, 6', 175lbs, HIV+, healthy, versatile, attractive, masculine, intelligent, professional, active, well-traveled, seeks partner for LTR. Serious replies only. East Point ☎7284

**CALLING ALL BODY-BUILDERS**
Handsome, in shape, caring GWM, 38, 5'11", 185lbs, seeks GWM body builder for friendship, cuddling, possibly, more. Show off those muscles for your number one fan! Atlanta ☎4939

**SEEKING COMPANION**
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎3376

**STILL LOOKING FOR YOU**
Handsome GWM, 40, 5'10", 175lbs, brown/blue, HIV+, enjoys movies, dining out, the beach, art, yoga, outdoors, exercising, gardening. Seeking secure GM for dating, maybe more. Atlanta ☎7285

**HOME-MAKER**
GBM, late 30's Androgynous-looking bottom, HIV+ and very-healthy, loves housework, cooking, cleaning, ironing, and a barber. Seeks average guy, top, who needs love. Race unimportant. Atlanta ☎6810

**SMART, SEXY, SPONTANEOUS**
Outgoing SM, 33, 5'11", brown/blue, smooth body, average build, enjoys sports (except basketball), long park walks. Atlanta ☎7249

**100% TOP**
Very masculine-acting BiBM, 30, 6'2", 235lbs, muscular build, who enjoys working out at the gym 3-5 times per week, seeks man, under 32. Jonesboro ☎7203

**SEEKING COMPANION**
GBM, 32, 5'9", 155lbs, tone, slender build, very attractive, professional, discreet, seeks GBM for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎7080

**LOOKING FOR LOVE**
Down-to-earth, honest, attractive, shy SBM, 21, 5'10", 165lbs, black/brown, loves amusement parks, reading, cuddling, photography, videos, shopping, movies. Seeking down-to-earth, outgoing SWM, 18-30, for friendship, warm, loving LTR. Macon ☎5511

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**
SM, 47, 6', 200lbs, shaved head, moustache/goatee, husky and handsome, affectionate, caring, interested in monogamous relationship with husky, masculine guy. ☎7271

**CARING SWM...**
tired of being alone. SWM, 6'3", 235lbs, brown/brown, HIV-, N/D, N/S, N/Drugs, Christian daddy bear, seeks Mr. Right, 25-45, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎7038

**GROW OLD WITH ME**
The best is yet to come. GWM, 38, 6'4", romantic, stable, sincere, monogamous, top, D/D-free, enjoys travel, music, sci-fi, dining out, and staying in. Seeking compatible GWM, 27-43. Roswell ☎7156

**SEEKING OUTSTANDING MEN**
WM, 36, 6'1", slender, handsome, quiet, enjoys BBC America, physical labor. Seeking man, any culture, color, 35-55. Masculine, bisexual a plus. White collar; nice. Blue collar; sexy. West Central Area. Buena Vista ☎7015

**SEEKING ROMANCE**
SBPM, 29, 6'1", 230lbs, looking for GPM, 25-35, who enjoys the simple things in life, wants friendship, possible romance. ☎7133

**CHRISTIAN BEAR**
SWGM, 6'1", 240lbs, totally masculine football player from Alabama. Seeking slim to medium build white male, 20's - 30's, for serious Christian relationship. Serious inquiries only. Leave latest time to call. ☎6775

**LOOKIN' FOR LOVE**
BM, 37, 6' 75lbs, medium build, wears glasses, HIV+, enjoys movies, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking honest, outgoing man for dating, maybe more. Atlanta ☎6688

**LOOKING FOR YOU**
GWM, 41, 5'8", 160lbs, dark/dark, HIV+, lean, muscular build, in good health, seeks GWM, 35-50, HIV+, who works out and takes care of himself. Atlanta ☎6976

**SEEKING RELATIONSHIP**
Sincere, honest, quiet, easy-going GWM, 56, 145lbs, brown/brown, mustache, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, quiet evenings. Seeking male, 40-60, for relationship. Stone Mountain ☎4088

**SEEKING COMPANION**
GWM, 40, 6'1", 180lbs, seeks down-to-earth, independent GWM, 28-40, for friendship first, companionship second. I enjoy reading fiction, movies, the outdoors, travel. Atlanta ☎7158

**SEEKING THE REAL THING**
Down-to-earth SWPM, sincere, good-looking, HIV+, N/S, N/D, seeks same for dating, friendship, possible LTR. Me: 5'10", 175lbs, brown/blue, H/W proportionate. Enjoys movies, walks dinners out, water sports, quiet times. Peachtree City ☎6629

**HANDSOME SWM SEEKS SAME**
SWM, 36, 5'10", 168lbs, seeks similar SWM, for friendship or more. No disappointment here, looking for the same. Mcdongouh. Macon ☎6714

**SEEKING PARTNER**
GWM, 48, 5'11", 200lbs, balding brown/blue, salt-n-pepper beard/moustache, HIV+, financially/emotionally stable, seeks secure, stable, goal-oriented guy for romance, friendship, and possibly more. Roswell ☎7053

**SEARCHING TO FIND**
GBM, 40, 5'11", 215lbs, brown eyes, HIV, healthy, loves cooking, movies, walking, etc. Seeking average guy, top, for some fun, maybe more. South side. ☎7045

**MODERATION**
GWM, 39 yrs, 6'1", great shape, curly hair, blue, HIV+, healthy, non tobacco, not into late night scene. Seeking secure guy for dinners, dating, romance, possible relationship. Atlanta ☎5512

**HOW ABOUT YOU?**
BPM, 50, 5'10", 175lbs, 42" chest, 32" waste, 15" arms, enjoys exercise, dining in/dining out, quiet evenings. HIV positive, looking for goal oriented GM, any race for dating, N/S; N/D. ☎6632

**GRAY - A STATE OF MIND**
GWM, 55, happy, secure, fit, attractive, easygoing, fun, seeks nice man, 38+, who likes sports and nice times with a quality man. Enjoy life together. Stone Mountain ☎7157

**COULD YOU BE THE ONE?**
WM, 44, 5'8", 155lbs, brown/brown, moustache, HIV+ but healthy, sincere, affectionate, masculine, loves the outdoors, gardening. Hoping to meet someone, 38-45, who has similar interests and qualities. Griffin ☎7026

**HIBERNATION MATE**
Bear GWM, medium build, seeks hairy and husky WM, 45-55, for hibernation. HIV-only. Usual interests. Prefer south side or east side metro Atlanta buddy. ☎7105

**JUST ME**
Serious SWM, 54, 5'8", 160lbs, lives in North Georgia Mountains. Seeking passionate, sincere, honest man. Cleveland ☎7125

**SANE, SINGLE. SEXY**
40-something, health-conscious, sharp with a good sense of humor, stable, and everything else that's good. Atlanta ☎6949

**SOMETHING REAL**
SBM, 43, 260lbs, black/brown, a little shy, intelligent, outgoing, honest, caring, enjoys movies, music, cooking, basketball, reading, travel, much more. Seeking someone who honestly wants to form a bond, more? ☎7079

**PICKY ... AND PROUD OF IT**
Shy, atypically typical, not lookin' anywhere near 40, 6'1", 157lbs, amusing, versatile/bottom, HIV- GWM who likes books, art, conversation, most of the human species, etc. Seeking someone to love. Conyers ☎7068

**KEEP IT SIMPLE FOR 2003**
GBM, 40, 5'9", 165lbs, short 'fro, medium-built, dark skin, laid-back, and full of passion and energy, seeks a man of color. Bring excitement, energy, and realness to the table. Stone Mountain ☎7274

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**CHRISTMAS DAY**
Freedom parkway. You: radiant smile with sheepdog. Me: exercising with weights. Would love to meet you. Atlanta ☎7250

**PUBLIX**
You: dark sweater, blond hair. Me: yellow jacket, dark hair. Bumped into each other in wine section, smiled, and said hello. Would like to have coffee. Atlanta ☎7238

**DENNIS AT OSCARS**
Dennis, it is Nathan. Met two weeks ago at Oscars. Talked for two hours. You got my number. Should have got yours, too. Call me. Thanks. Douglasville ☎7159

**LOOKING FOR LOVE**
BM, 5'8", 252lbs, brown eyes, student, likes dining out, cooking, hanging with friends, bowling, volunteering, relaxing at home. Seeking nice, outgoing GWM for LTR. ☎7081

**RSVP**
Masculine, attractive, physically active GWM, 42, 5'9", 172lbs, HIV+, enjoys outdoors, being with friends, quiet times at home, exercise, classical music. Seeking GBM for friendship, dating, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎7227

**LOOKING FOR FUN**
Mature GWM seeks other males for fun, pleasure and friendship. Let's get together, call now. Atlanta. ☎5335

**HEART TO HEART**
GWM, 40s, 6', attractive, masculine, romantic, professional, non-scene, in search of handsome, similar GWM for monogamous relationship. Atlanta ☎6283

**COULD THIS BE YOU?**
GWM, 40, 6'3", 175lbs, D/D-free, N/S, not bar type, seeks same in WM, 30-45, H/W proportionate, for LTR. Atlanta ☎6317

**MAN ABOUT THE SOUTHSIDE**
Seeking Southside GW friend, 40-55, slim/average, for hanging out. Into sports, movies, the arts, nature, dining out. Not into bars, smoking, drugs, excess drinking. Let's hook up and have fun. Stockbridge ☎6812

**CUTE, SWEET BOTTOM**
Attractive BM, 5'5", 140lbs, auburn hair, moustache, conservative, seeks top for dating, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎7152

**SERIOUS**
GBM, 41, 6'2", 185lbs, slender build, reddish-brown complexion, seeks GBM for friendship, leading to LTR. Decatur ☎6851

**MASCULINE TOP - MIDTOWN**
GWM, 49, 5'8", 150lbs, hairy, goatee, HIV+, great shape, enjoys movies, dining, travel, quiet times, sports. Seeking non-smoking GWM, under 45, in shape, for dating, romance, LTR. Loves kissing, cuddling. Atlanta ☎7043

**TIRED OF BEING ALONE**
Mature GWM, 5'8", 145lbs, blond/blue, N/S, on North side, seeks stable, masculine, fit GWM, 35-55, for dating, possible LTR. Prefer 6' or under, H/W proportionate. Love travel, movies, dining out. Duluth ☎6901

**PASSIONATE, ARTISTIC GUY**
Handsome, romantic, laid-back GWM, 41, 6', 220lbs, HIV+, new to area, looking for friends, dating, relationship. Enjoy travel, outdoors, camping, cultural events, movies, cooking, spontaneous fun. Let's hang out. Athens. Winterville ☎6777

**SENSE OF HUMOR A MUST**
Light-hearted SM, 42, 6'2", 180lbs, brown hair, boy-next-door features, likes movies, reading, music, plays. Seeking male with similar interests. Atlanta ☎5326

**TALL AND SEXY**
Attractive SBM, 34, 6'1", 185lbs, college graduate, seeks spiritually-grounded, soul-oriented man to share my interests with. ☎7131


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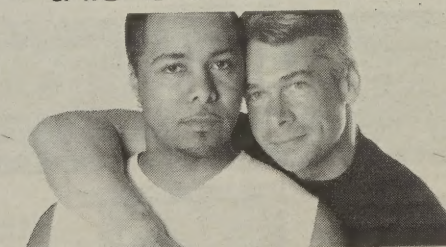

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## Women Seeking Women

**NO GAMES, JUST SINCERITY**
Soft, butch GWF, 35, seeks LTR with a kindred spirit, a special woman, 30+, who likes scary movies, sushi. Must believe that romance never ends, and cuddling springs eternal. Decator Atlanta ☎5901

**GREAT CATCH!**
GBPF, 24, seeks SF for friendship, possibly more. I am attractive, feminine, active. Seeking stable, D/D-free lady to enjoy life with. Atlanta ☎7272

**STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT..**
GBF, in search of a mate, someone honest, sincere and available to date, with a charming spirit, integrity and personality. No drama or issues and secure in her sexuality. Decatur ☎7013

**SEEKING THE RIGHT ONE**
SWF, 43, blue eyes, soft butch, seeks same. Must be stable, loving, and want a relationship. No games, please. N/S, light drinker ok. Jonesboro ☎6873

**SOMEONE JUST FOR ME**
BPF seeks beautiful soft butch, 35+, N/Drugs, N/S, mentally/spiritually/financially centered. Character is important. Race is not. Stone Mountain ☎6638

**BLUE-EYED SCORPIO**
SF, 34, 5'2", 170lbs, brown hair, soft-butch country girl, loves sports, the outdoors, travel, dining out, movies. Seeking quiet, easygoing type for dating, hopefully becoming more. Tyrone ☎7154

**LONELY MOM**
GBF, 30, 5'7", great laugh, likes reading, going to movies, going out and enjoying life. Seeking fun-loving, adventurous GBF for friendship first. Atlanta ☎6950

**MATURE SOPHISTICATE**
BF, 55, mature sophisticate, seeks same in professional BF to share dining, movies, travel, cultural events and comfortable home life, some discretion required. Stone Mountain ☎7104

**FEMININE PROFESSIONAL**
GWF, 33, 5'7", 120lbs, attractive, successful, intelligent, seeks feminine GWF, 30-45, N/S, N/Drugs, for committed relationship. Alpharetta ☎7155

**HOPELESS ROMANTIC**
Female, 27, 5'3", 190lbs, long brown/hazel, loves watching football and occasional tennis, enjoys writing poems and short stories. Seeking friend, possibly more. Bloomingdale ☎7098

**NO...**
false advertising here! Fun, outgoing, honest, intelligent, feminine GWPF, 32, seeks GWF for meaningful friendship first, possible LTR. Love the fall, walks, great conversation, and laughing. Smokers ok. Tucker ☎6840

**BEEN LOOKING FOR LOVE...**
in all the wrong places! SF, 39, never married, no dependents, loves mystery movies. Looking for committed relationship with homebody female. No dependents, please. College Park ☎7224

**MIDNITE IN THE GARDEN**
SWF, 44 , butch, 5'4", 195lbs, brown/brown, dimples, likes movies, motorcycles, bowling, seeks easygoing WF, 40-50, to laugh and have fun. Atlanta ☎7276

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**WAITING TO EXHALE**
BF, 5'8", long brown/brown, of large frame, telecommunications customer service representative, loves college football, basketball, and travel. Seeking woman for committed relationship. Atlanta ☎6870

**SIMPLE LATINA**
GHF, 24, 123lbs, feminine, loves dancing salsa and meringue. Seeking confident and stable soft butch, 24-35, for dating, friendship, and possibly more. Marietta, GA. Woodstock ☎7182

**OLDER WISER LESBIANS**
Can we start a support/social group for the above in North Fulton County? Is anyone out there? If interested and would like to get involved, please call. Alpharetta ☎7072

**SOMEONE JUST FOR ME**
SF, 5'9", 195lbs, brown eyes, mother of two, loves basketball, swimming, conversation, meeting people, and more. Looking for a woman who ants to commit themselves to a serious relationship. College Park ☎7180

**SNUGGLE WITH ME...**
in the mountains. SWF, 43, 5'4", 139lbs, blondish-brown/blue, hopeful romantic, spontaneous and lighthearted, but also deep, thoughtful, and kind, seeks SWF who wants personal wholeness and growth. Jasper ☎7144

**SPECIAL LADY SOUGHT**
Female, 44, 5'7", 175lbs, with MS, looking for a special lady to spend time. Not looking for a lot of drama! Covington ☎6773

**SENSE OF HUMOR**
SF, 38, 5'2", mother, lives life one day at a time, likes being at home, television, playing cards, conversation. Seeking a female with the same interests. ☎7094

**SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL**
Very attractive, feminine, emotionally, spiritually/financially stable, fit GWPF, 30s, 125lbs, 5'4", honest, kind, seeks SWF for friendship, more. Enjoys golf, gym, dogs, movies, dinner, travel. Northwest Atlanta. *D/D-free a must!* Dallas ☎7069

**DON'T GIVE UP**
Very attractive, successful, intelligent, warm and caring, young-looking, feminine 40 year-old SWPF seeks similar for exclusive relationship. N/S, N/Drugs. Canton/Roswell. ☎5107

**FALL FOR ME THIS FALL!**
GWF, 42, 5'2", 135lbs, feminine, pretty, and unique, enjoys hanging out, clubbing, exercise, working out, tanning at the beach. Seeking GWF, responsible, mature, sweet, and honest, for companionship, possibly more. Tucker ☎7042

**2 GOOD 2 B LOOKING 4 LOVE**
42-year-old BF, independent, healthy, and open-minded, forgot how to look for a date so call before x-mas. Atlanta ☎7044

## Just Friends

**MULTI-LINGUAL TUTELAGE**
SWM, 52, good looks, body, health, characters. Bright, personable. Seeking similar GWF's with whom to practice French. Good working relationship necessary. Serious inquires only. No men. Decatur ☎7107


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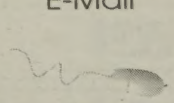
Give us your e-mail address and we'll do the rest.


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# CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline to place a classified ad for Friday's publication is Monday at noon

## REAL ESTATE SERVICES

**EARN EXTRA $$$** Refer a friend for a Rental/Sale. Contact Pride Realty. (404) 352-5570.

## SALE / FULTON

**MIDTOWN** (620 Peachtree St) 2 BR / 2 BA. Million dollars view! One of the best end units in bldg. Private balcony, 17th fl. $199,00. Call Wayne (404) 876-6962.

**PRIDE REALTY FOR SALE** BUCKHEAD TERRACES AT PEACHTREE; 1 Biscayne Dr. 30309.
✔2 BR / 2 BA Buckhead condo. Many upgrades. $184,900.
✔1 BR / 1.5 BA Buckhead condo. Many upgrades. $169,900.
PRIDE REALTY (404) 352-5570.
www.PrideRealty.com

## SALE / DEKALB

**CLAIRMONT / I-85** Private in-town retreat. 3 BR / 3 BA (1f/2h), updated split-lvl w/full bsmt on wooded lot w/ stream. Ideal to entertain: extra-lrg DR, multi-lvl, wrap around deck, hdwd flrs, upgraded lighting, french doors & more. Upper 200's. Brian Fraiser, RE/MAX GRTR ATL.

**DECATUR** (811 E. Pounce de Leon) Walk to square. Great bungalow in hot Decatur. 2 BR / 2 BA + office/study. Gleaming hdwd flrs, arched doors, lrg kit, huge master suite features; tiled BA, double vanity, jacuzzi, sep shower. Prof landscaping w/ in ground sprinklers & lighting, lrg fenced yard & expanded attic. $272,000. Daren Painter @ CHAPMAN HALL REALTORS, (404) 932-6511.

## RENTAL SERVICES

**PRIDE REALTY GAY RENTALS** A current list of the most desirable living addresses in Atl. Please call Jason Levine (404) 352-5770..
✔MAYFAIR RENAISSANCE on 14th St. 2 BR / 2 BA w/2 balc, concierge, garage. $1,300/mo.
✔CENTENNIAL PARK PALACE. New 2 BR / 2 BA, stainless gourmet kit. $1,795/mo.
✔MARIETTA TOWNHOUSE. 2 BR / 1.5 BA. $825/mo.
✔TERRACES AT PEACHTREE. (Buckhead) 1 BR / 1.5 BA, hdwd flrs, WD & many upgrades. $995/mo.
✔PEACHTREE WALK on 11th St. 2 BR / 2 BA, WD, balc. $1,200/mo
✔LOFTS AT THE PARK at 11th & Piedmont. The ultimate 1 BR / 1 BA loft. WD, hdwd flrs, balcony, gourmet kit, jacuzzi tub. $1,300/mo.
"Proudly committed to our Atlanta community"
www.Priderealty.com. (404) 352-5570.

**COLDWELL BANKER THE CONDO STORE Upscale condo rentals. Full service leasing & management. Norma Palus, Leasing Agent. (678) 553-4142.**

**TWO LOFTS AVAIL 1/1. (32 Peachtree St) The William Oliver Building, built in 1930. This historic bldg is being restored to it's original splendor. Complete w/ brass canopy & doors at the entryway. Located within walking distance to Georgia State Univ, Underground Atl, CNN, Centennial Olympic Park, Phillips Arena. The future aquarium, Macy's, the public library, the Historic Municipal Market, the Capital & government buildings & expressways. Shopping & activities abound. Your studio or 2 BR apt incl 24-hr security concierge, T-1, Internet ready, cable, prof shared office area, full workout facilities, laundry facilities or hook-ups in units, pool on the 17th flr w/ barbecue grills. This is a view you can't believe. We have a studio apt on the 3rd flr avail as well as a 2 BR w/ roommate plan on the 12th flr overlooking Peachtree St. Both lofts spaces newly renovated. See photos at http://thewilliamoliver.com. Contact: (404) 392-1144 or (404) 210-3542.**

MIDTOWN LUXURY RENTALS
✔1116 Piedmont Ave #12-3 BR, 3 BA 2 story condo on the Park, total renov, jet-tub, hdwds, fpl. $1,850/mo.
✔679 Bonaventure-3 BR, 3.5 BA newer TH, 2-car garage, open plan, hdwds, immaculate. $1,950/mo.
✔870 Argonne-2 BR, 1 BA new renov TH. 2 blks to Park, hdwd, prv fenced yard! $1,200/mo.
Tour at RandalandDavid.com. (404) 874-2393. Atlanta Intown.

## RENT / COBB

**KENNESAW** 3 BR / 2 BA house. Fpl, CAC/heat, deck. Appl fee. (678) 797-9988.

## RENT / FULTON

✔946 PIEDMONT 2 BR w/small 3rd guest/study/office, 2 BA, CAC/heat, lrg LR, exposed brick, pets Ok, DW, OSP. $1,200/mo utils incl.
✔50 PIEDMONT 1 BR. $650/mo utils incl

**ATLANTA RENTALS** Pride Realty. Ansley/Midtown.
✔ 1 BRs $650/mo & up.
✔ 2 BR, 1 BA $659/mo (February rent $99)
✔ 2 BR, 2 BA Garden apt $829/mo.
✔ 2 BR, 1.5 BA townhouse $780/mo.
"Because There's No Place Like Home." Pride Realty. com (We Are a NO FEE Service) (404) 352-5570.

**BOLTON / NW** Defoors area. 2/3 BR / 1 BA. 10' ceilings, hdwd flrs, WD, porches, deck & fenced yard. Pets welcome. $1,000/mo. (404) 794-7928.

✔BUCKHEAD Dream house! (3891 Wieuca Rd) 3 BR / 2 BA, deluxe stainless kit, wrap around deck, 2 sunrooms. $1,800/mo.
✔SOUTH BROOKHAVEN (1163 Pinegrove Ave) 3 BR / 2 BA, carport, fpl, deck. $1,495/mo.
www.PrideRealty.com. (404) 352-5570.

**EAST ATL 2 BR / 1 BA TH. CAC/heat, WD, new paint, WW, fans. On bus line & close to village. Must see inside. $900/mo w/discount. Open: 1/18 (10am - 12noon). Call (404) 226-2905 for directions.**

**GRANT PARK Renovated 2BR house. OSP. Call (352) 408-6863 or e-mail: marshareel@wmconnect.com.**

**MIDTOWN** (Myrtle St) 1 BR. Walk to restaurants & bars. New appliances, WD, alarm system. $950/mo utils incl. (404) 724-9513.

**MIDTOWN** 2 BR / 2 BA condo, 2-lvl, patio, garage space w/ remote, secured entry. 2 blks to Piedmont Park. $1,450/mo. Avail immed! (404) 508-9952.

**MORNINGSIDE** 1 BR apt, CAC/heat, sunporch/deck, WD hookups. $800/mo + utils. (404)876-7540.

**PRIDE REALTY** METRO ATLANTA LOFTS. Ansley/Midtown.
✔1 BRs from $650/mo & up
✔2 BRs from $910/mo & up
✔Lofts @ the Park 11th St; Huge 1 BR palace $1,500/mo
www.Pride Realty. com
(404) 352-5570. (We Are a NO FEE Service).

**VA HIGHLAND** Fab 1 BR terrace apt! Bay windows, hdwd flrs, priv deck. 1 blk to Village. $900/mo (678) 508-2734.

**VA HIGHLAND** 1930s renov 3 BR Bungalow. High ceils, hdwd flrs & front porch. $1,300/mo. (678) 508-2734.

**WOODLAND HILLS / MORNINGSIDE** 2 units avail.
✔Lrg 3 BR, 1.5 BA TH
✔Lrg 2 BR, 1.5 BA TH
hdwd flrs, utility RM, OSP, Woodland Hills/Morningside area. Very priv & quiet. $875/mo & $775/mo. (770) 448-3603.

**LAKEWOOD** Fabulous executive home. Near airport. Recently renov 4 BR, 2 BA, den, fpls, hdwd flrs, lrg eat-in kit, CAC, 2-car garage & more. $1,490/mo. Call Ellen at (404) 593-6454.

## RENT / DEKALB

**BROOKHAVEN** 3 BR / 2.5 BA. Hdwd throughout. New kit, fenced yard & pets Ok! No smoking inside. $1,300/mo. (404) 315-7118.

**CLARKSTON** Priv furn rm / BA for gentleman. Priv entrance, lrg garden area, patio w/ swing. Cats welcome. (404) 292-8311.

**DECATUR / EMORY** 2 BR / 1 BA. Incl; CATV & water. Lrg top fl condo. Quiet, modern, WD, DW, disp, CAC, pool & pets Ok. $780/mo. (678) 984-8903.

**DECATUR** 3 BR / 1.5 BA house, updated kit/BA, hdwds, WD, CAC/heat, carport, quiet neighborhood, near MARTA. $975/mo. Possible lease/purchase. (404) 252-4895.

**DECATUR CITY** Cute Decatur house w/ 2BR, 1BA, hdwd flrs, trees, privacy, pets OK. $795/mo. (770) 399-7799.

**DEKALB / EMORY** Elegant 3 BR / 2 BA, LR, DR, kit, pool, CATV. Near 285, 85, 78, bus. $895/mo. (770) 491-8789, lv msg.

**DORAVILLE / INSIDE 285** 3 BR / 1 BA on quiet st. CAC/heat, deck, garage, bsmt. Discount rent $895/mo. (770) 938-9773.

**EAST ATL** Gated community. New 1 BR on lake. Top flr, end unit, hdwd flrs, new appliances incl WD. Water & security incl. $750/mo. (404) 627-9315.

**EMORY / DECATUR** Lrg, luxury 3 BR / 2.5 BA TH, fpl, built-in bookcases, CAC/heat, double garage, walk-up attic, deck, WD, nice side street. $1,395/mo. No pets. (404) 379-9502.

**MORNINGSIDE** Spacious 3BR / 1.5 BA, dplx on quiet st. Stack WD, newly painted inside, hdwd flrs. Great loc. $1,200/mo. (404)248-0810.

**TUCKER AT I-285** 3 BR / 2 BA modern ranch, hdwd flrs, fpl, fenced yard, 2-car carport & extras. $1,000/mo. (770) 493-8971.

**VA-HI / EMORY** Lrg 1BR, light, spacious, pool, balc, AC, DW, on site laundry. $725 incl gas/water. (404)876-8072.

## ROOMMATE SERVICES

**HOME BUT NOT ALONE** Enjoy reduced rent & comfortable housing. Fast placements, no waiting list, share w/ a person living with HIV. Home avail now! Call Rita (770) 395-2625 or call Susan (770) 395-2546.

## SHARE / GWINNETT

**GWINNETT / LILBURN** 3 BR / 2 BA, fenced 1/2 acre home to shr. Animals Ok. $525/mo utils incl. Call (770) 337-0321. No drugs!

**SNELLVILLE / NORRIS LAKE** Shr home: Hwy 124. $375/mo & $375/dep. Call (770) 598-2983.

## SHARE / FULTON

**BUCKHEAD / MIDTOWN** GM seeks roommate to shr renov 2 BR / 1 BA condo in Brookwood neighborhood. Pool, tennis, gated prkg, WD, chefs kit. Fantastic view of skyline, furn BR. No smokers/pets. $650/mo + 1/2 utils. $325 dep. (404) 870-0760.

**BUFORD HWY (SUTTON PLACE)** Come join our family! 2 single GPM + 1 declawed cat seeks M/F. We have a 3 BR / 2.5 BA TH at Sutton Place, a gay community. $480/mo incl utils + $100 dep. WD, CATV & 2 pools. Smokers welcome. (404) 315-7392.

**EAST POINT** 3 BR home. Priv RM w/ BA/phone/cable, WD, pool, all amens, MARTA, nice area. $550/mo + dep. Refs req'd. (404) 254-8546.

**HISTORIC INMAN PARK** 3 min from Midtown. Prof GM seeks GM roommate. Lrg newly renov 2-story home, 3 BR / 2.5 BA, pool, jacuzzi, stainless steel, mod kit, WD. No pets. $600 + 1/2 utils. David, (404) 569-7580.

**LITTLE 5 POINTS Moreland/McClendon 2 BR / 1 BA, apt-home. Hdwds, sep entrance, CATV. Pets welcome. $362.50/mo + 1/2 utils. (404) 784-7057.**

**SHALLOWFORD & 85** Roommate wanted to shr 2 BR, 2.5 BA TH. $500/mo + 1/2 utils. Call (678) 530-9344.

**TUCKER** responsible GM to shr 2 BR / 2.5 BA TH, smokers welcome. $500/mo utils incl. Dep req'd. Call (404) 374-1868

## SHARE / DEKALB

**CITY OF DECATUR Walk to square! PGWM seeks PGM to shr lrg exec style home. Must be mature, clean & responsible. No heavy drinkers or drug users wanted! Priv BR & BA. $625/mo + 1/2 utils. 1 yr lease reqd. Call Dan: (404)370-0023 (h) / (404) 876-7311 (w).**

**DECATUR** GF looking for responsible prof to shr 3 BR / 1 BA home. No drugs. Must like pets. $485/mo + 1/2 utils. Small dep. (404) 246-7053.

**EMORY / VAHI** ISO cool dude to shr 2 BR / BA, pool, cable, on MARTA line. $500/mo utils incl. (404) 909-9187.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NAESM** National Aids Education & Services for Minorities. (2001 MLK Jr Dr, Suite 602; Atl GA 30310) Free HIV counseling & testing. Test uses no needles & is quick, easy & confidential. Testing hours: M-F, 9am-5:30pm (other day/hrs by appt). Call (404) 753-3550. No appt necessary all are welcomed.

**FREE HIV TESTING** Confidential HIV testing every Wednesday from 5:30-7pm at YouthPride, 302 E. Howard Ave, in Decatur. (404) 378-6620 for more info, or www.youthpride.org

**OUR COMMON WELFARE** will provide free HIV testing & counseling. testing using oral fluids & urine test; daily 9am-1pm. Located at 4329 Memorial Dr, Suite H; Decatur (next to Dekalb Co jail). Call (404) 296-3090 for details.

**A COMMON BOND** is a social group for gay, former&/or current JWs, offering friendship & an understanding environment. For details about the next gathering of the Atlanta Chapter call (770) 493-3188 or e-mail: micek38@yahoo.com.

**ST MICHAEL THE DEFENDER** A parish of the Catholic Apostolic church in North America. Sun Mass 10am @ (159 Ralph McGill Blvd). Across from the Civic Center. "All are welcome" Father Patrick W. Batuyong, Pastor. (404) 627-7212.
www.stmichaelatlanta.org

**AIDS SURVIVAL PROJECT'S THRIVE!** Weekend 01/25 & 26, 2003 8:30am-6:00pm. 159 Ralph McGill Blvd, Atl. Free & interactive intensive two-day workshop/presentation on more than 17 topics covering info & resources by & for people w/ HIV/AIDS. Breakfast & lunch provided. Free childcare & ASL avail on request. Registration & information: (404) 874-7926 or (877) AIDS-444, TTY 404-524-0464.

## EMPLOYMENT

**A 30 SECOND COMMUTE** Serious $$ potential. Home-based business. Full training. Free info. Call or visit: (888) 304-1643
www.BuildBigDreams.com.

**FT/PT COURIER** needed for rapidly growing gay-owned courier company. Great income, flexible hrs. Must own reliable transportation. Call Dan (404) 627-8011.

**GIFT ACCOUNTING** POH seeks person to process & acknowledge gifts from donors & maintain donor database. Prior non-profit experience preferred. Individual should be detail oriented & have experience with databases & Microsoft Office. E-mail resume & cover letter to ekilpatrick@profectopenhand.org or fax to (404)872-9301. EOE.

**MAKE MONEY DRIVING!** Gay owned courier/delivery service now hiring for FT/PT/holidays. Need drivers w/ SUVs, vans, covered trucks, station wagon & cars. Flexible hrs avail. For an interview call Jamey @ (404) 627-8011.

**SELF MOTIVATED RESIDENTIAL CLEANING** Now interviewing dependable, trustworthy individuals. Experience preferred. Great pay. Benefits offered. Call now or e-mail: www.promaid.net (404) 475-6243.

**TEMPORARY CONVENTION LABOR** needed at GWCC. Dates needed: 1/18-1/24. (404) 881-0809.

**THE GREATEST GENERATION** If you've cared for a loved one, this job's for you! Join the #1 non-medical in-home service for the elderly. Flexible PT day, evening & weekend hours avail. *Car Required* HOME INSTEAD SENIOR CARE. Call today: (770) 392-1070.

## VOLUNTEERS

**ATLANTA HARM REDUCTION CENTER** is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing info, condoms, referrals & more to the people who are the underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time & energy. For more info write to: AHRC; 1020 DeKalb Ave NE, suite 17; Atl GA 30307 or call (404) 526-9222. Email us Ahrastlanta@juno.com.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## MUSICAL SERVICES

**PIANO LESSONS** Priv instruction avail evenings & weekends. Intermediate to advanced students & adults desiring technique refresher. Experienced professional musician. (404) 351-0829.

## INSTRUCTION

**POTTERY CLASS VIDEO** Soothing, hands on activity! $16. FREE shipping!! (404) 822-3322 or e-mail: queenspawn1377@hotmail.com.

## TRAVEL / INTERNATIONAL

**GALAPAGOS...** Evolve while experiencing the vacation-adventure of a lifetime. For details & bookings call Elena (703) 517-2664.

**ALL-GAY MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE** Barcelona, Ibiza & more. 8/31/02-9/7/03. Book early call Keith, Shipmate Cruise (301) 925-7041.

## TRAVEL / U.S.A.

**MONTROSE INN** On your next visit to Houston stay w/ us! We offer a 7 room B&B incl queen beds, CATV & phone. Convenient to 15 gay bars. (713) 520-0206 or (800) 357-1228. Visit our website @ www.montroseinn.com.

**THE LOVETT INN** Distinctive lodging & catering accommodations. Corporate meeting rooms, banquet facilities, jacuzzi suites, pool & hot tubs. Near downtown, museums & medical center. (713) 522-5224 or (800) 779-5224. View our website at www.lovettinn.com.

**A WINTER ESCAPE** Beautifully appointed WVA cottage, 2 hrs DC. Sleeps 4, fpl, breakfast supplied. Indulge yourself. (703) 451-5081 or Raybrookloj@hotmail.com

**BEAR HAVEN** Hedonistic hideaway secluded on 30 luscious acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Not a B&B, you have it all to yourselves! Total privacy! Charming cottage is perfect blend or art 7 rustic in nature's most serene setting. With in-ground pool and hot tub. Only 1+ hrs from Beltway. (202) 271-8282.

**GAY FRIENDLY B&B** Only 2 hrs from DC. Victorian hone w/ 5 rooms, private BA's & on site dining. The Joshua Wilton House, Harrisonburg, VA. (888) 2WILTON or visit us at www.joshuawilton.com.

**LESBIAN PARADISE!** 100 acres, 19 rooms, indoor & outdoor jacuzzis, skiing trails, peace & privacy. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 118, Bethlehem NH 03574. (877) LES-B-INN (537-2466) or e-mail: vacation@highlandsinn-nh.com or visit our homepage: www.highlandsinn-nh.com

**ATLANTIC CITY** Rooms for men. Clothing optional. Intimate atmosphere. Brochure: OCEAN HOUSE; 127 Ocean Ave; Atlantic City, NJ 08401; (609) 345-0198.

**BALTIMORE'S BEST GETAWAY** Free prkg, priv BA, phone, TV, breakfast incl. Restaurant. Walk to bars. ABACROMBIE BADGER B&B; 58 W. Biddle St; 21201. (410) 244-7227.

**DC's PRIDE** Hilton Washington Embassy Row. Just 1fi blks off Dupont Circle/Metro. Elegant European-style, full-service hotel. Gay-friendly, great location, & the perfect place for your out-of-town guests or functions up to 300 people. 2015 Mass Ave, NW. Call (202) 265-1600 & ask for the DC Pride rate.

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**TO PLACE AN AD: IN PERSON:** Bring completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* (M-F, 9-6 pm) 1075 Zonolite Rd., Ste. 1-D, Atlanta. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to *Southern Voice* Classifieds, 1075 Zonolite Rd, Ste. 1D, Atlanta, GA 30306. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 1-877-863-1885 (toll free). **BY E-MAIL:** classifieds@sovo.com. **ON THE WEB:** Log on to www.sovo.com to place your ad online. **AD POLICY:** *Southern Voice* reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting *Southern Voice* standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: *Southern Voice* is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

**DEADLINE FOR AD SUBMISSION • ATLANTA: MONDAY AT NOON FOR FRIDAY'S PUBLICATION**

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**RATE $17.50:**

___ Announcements
___ Auditions
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___ Roommates
___ Autos
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***Call 877-863-1885 for more information***

### 2 WRITE YOUR AD
Please print clearly

**CATEGORY:**_____ **# OF ISSUES:** _____

**TEXT:** _____

### 3 TOTAL YOUR COST

**INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS, EFFECTIVE DEC. 6, 2002**
Up to 20 words for $17.50 per week. Additional words at 75¢ each per week. This includes Web site posting. **Additional features:** Photo/logo is an additional $35; boxed ad is $5; bold ad is $5; hyperlink is $2.

Up to 20 words: $17.50

Additional words _____ x 50¢: _____

Photo/Logo: + $35 Boxed/Bold Ad: + $5 Hyperlink: + $2

**Subtotal**: _____ x _____ # of issues

**Total**: $_____

*Your classified ad also will be posted at www.sovo.com*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone _____

Check Enclosed _____ Charge to my ❑ AMEX ❑ MC ❑ VISA

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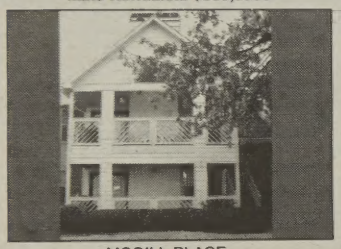

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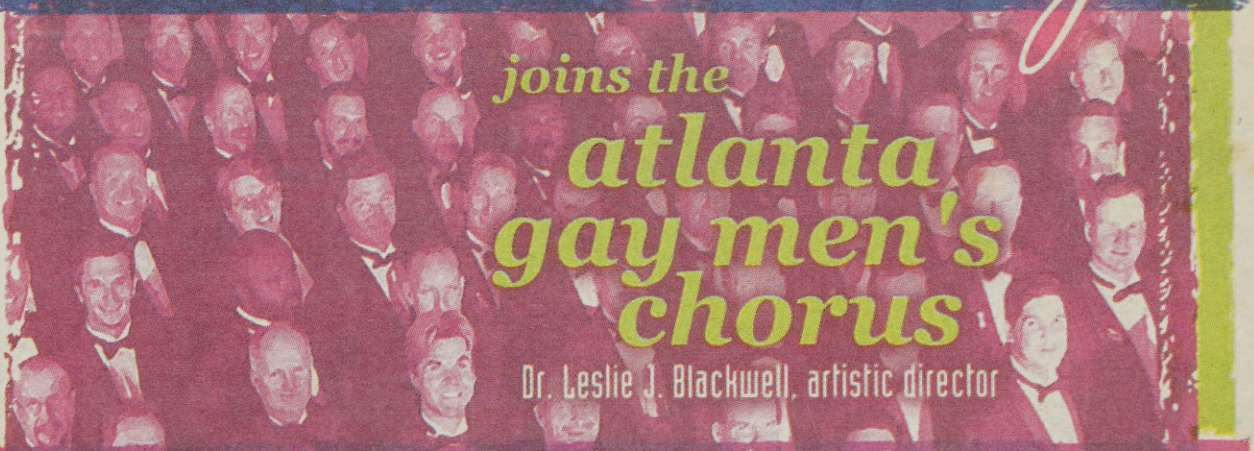

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